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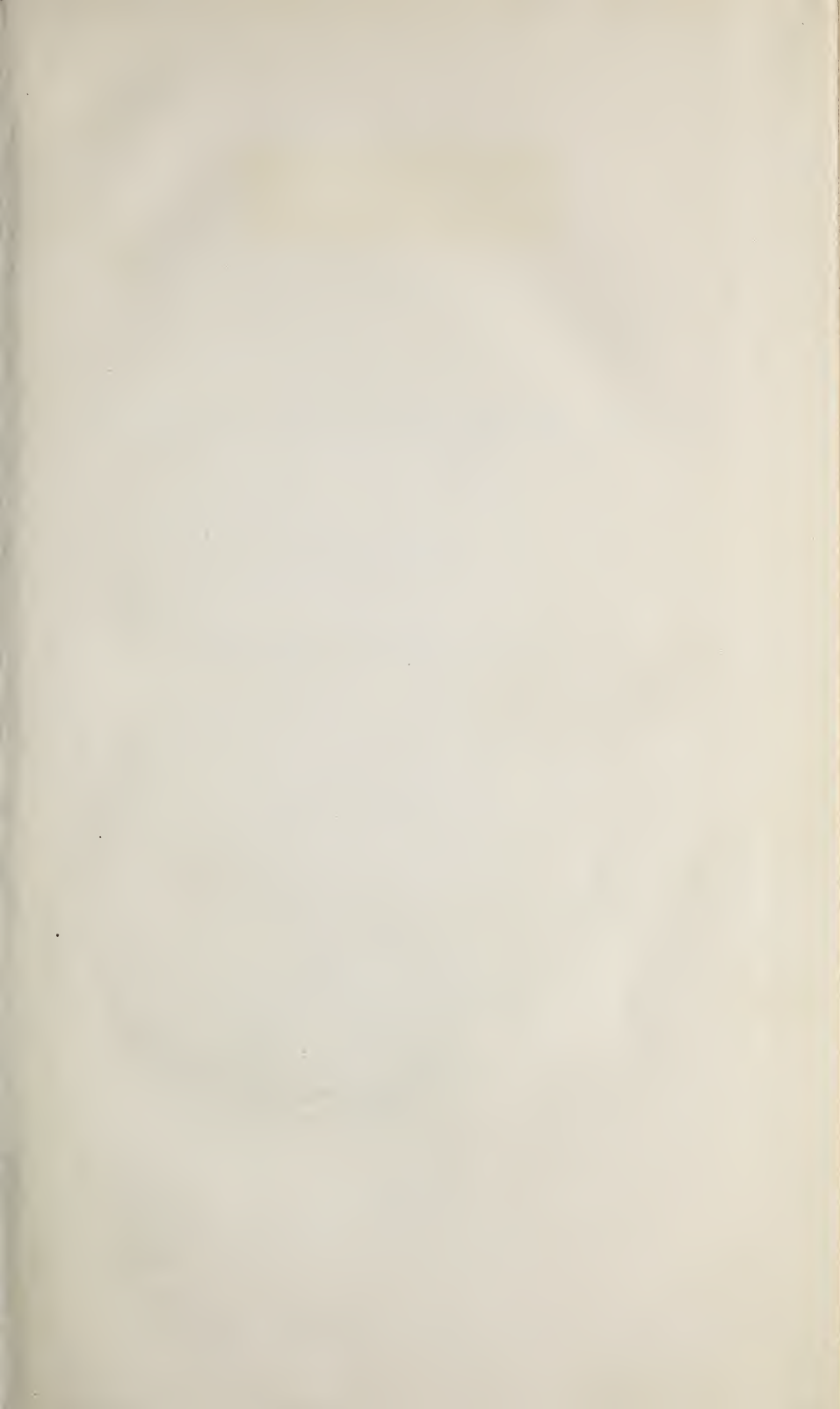
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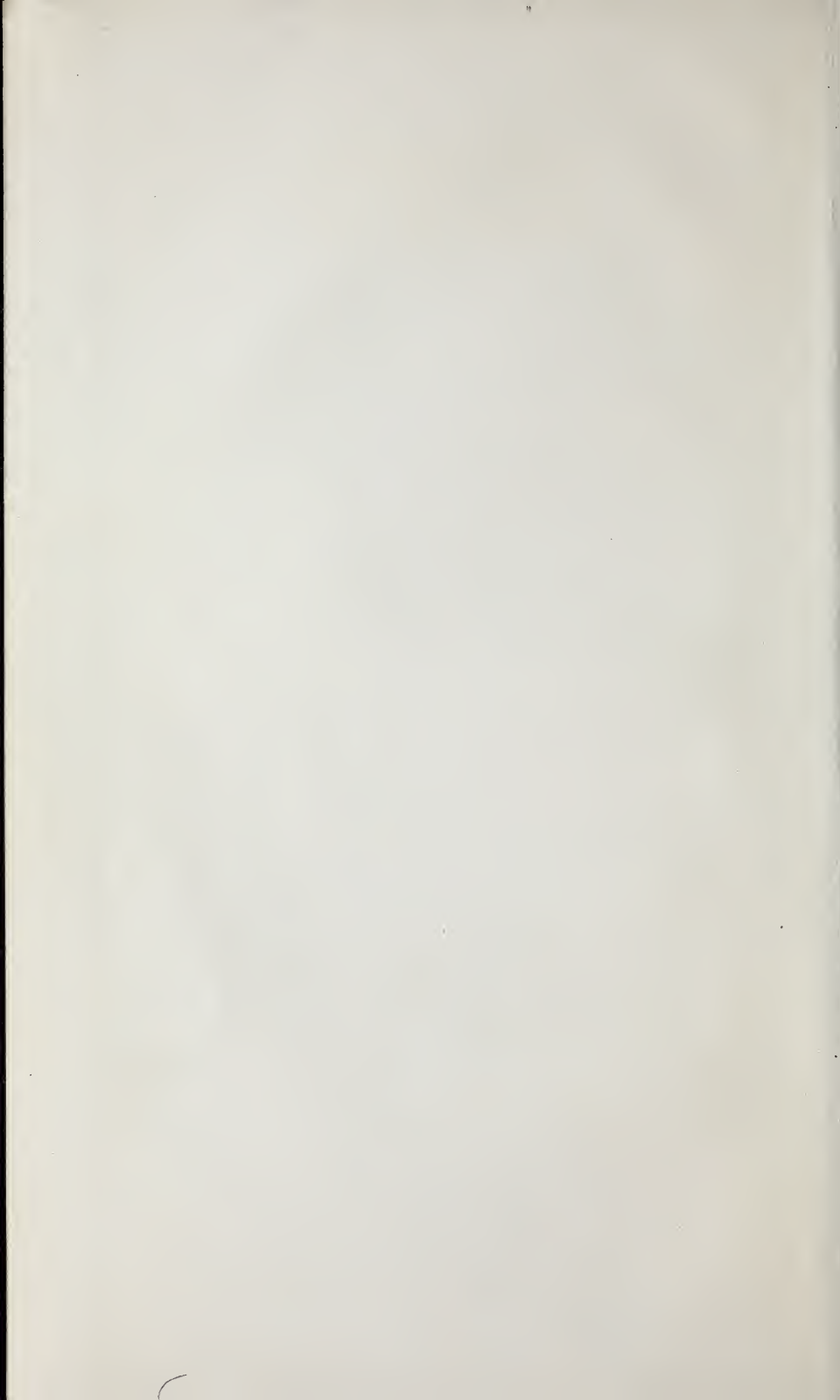
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HISTORY^c

OF THE

TOWN OF ANTRIM, N. H.

FOR A PERIOD OF

ONE CENTURY;

FROM 1744 TO 1844.

BY

REV. JOHN M. WHITON.



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DEDICATION.

TO THE CITIZENS OF ANTRIM:

HAVING spent with you forty-four years in the Ministry of the Gospel, twenty-eight as the town's minister, and the remaining sixteen as pastor of the Presbyterian church and congregation, in general peace and harmony, I have felt of course a deep interest in all the transactions and concerns of the place. Unable much longer to perform, especially in winter, the full amount of pastoral labor necessary in a society so widely scattered, I propose at no distant day to resign my charge. Soon after my ordination, 1808, I began to collect from the first settlers, most of whom were then on the stage, accounts of the early transactions in the place. Unwilling they should pass into the oblivion to which they are rapidly hastening, I have concluded to publish this Historical Sketch. The records of the town, church, presbytery, and my own private records have been thoroughly examined. As a sort of farewell token of my interest in your welfare, and an expression of gratitude for the friendly reception of my labors, on the part of the great mass of the inhabitants, for a period now approaching toward half a century, I submit these pages to your perusal, in the hope, that notwithstanding the details are minute, and the interest in them limited to those who are or have been residents, they may be found not altogether devoid of utility to the present and future citizens of the place. That you may enjoy the blessings of education and religion, and see their happy results in the prevalence of peace, good order, Christian morality, and the support of Christian institutions, is the ardent wish of

JOHN M. WHITON.

Antrim, June, 1852.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE town of Antrim having been originally settled by *Scotch Irish* Presbyterians, a brief view of the causes which led to the emigration of their ancestors, first from Scotland to Ireland, and next, at a subsequent period, from Ireland to America, will throw light on the following History.

Near the close of the sixteenth century, the Catholic Irish raised a formidable rebellion against the English government. They doubtless had grievances that ought to have been redressed ; but the question of *right*, in relation to the matter, falls not within the scope of this work. Queen Elizabeth, then on the British throne, distinguished for the vigor of her administration, suppressed the rebellion and confiscated the great landed estates of many of the Popish leaders, to the amount of half a million of acres. It then became important to the English government both to provide for the occupancy and cultivation of these lands, and to infuse into the population of the country a Protestant element that should serve as a counterpoise to Catholic influence, and a check on future plots of the native Irish. Where should these new elements of population be found ? The Scots were zealous Protestants and Presbyterians. Inhabiting a rough and rugged country, the offer of other lands more arable and fertile, would be to them attractive. In the reign of Elizabeth's successor, James I, the vacant lands in the north of Ireland were offered to them on terms so easy that multitudes were induced, about 1612, to cross the water separating the west of Scotland from the north of Ireland, and settle in the counties of Antrim and Londonderry ; and, more sparsely, in several neighboring counties. Many of them were from the Scottish county of Argyle. The emigration continued for some years, during which the northern counties of Ireland were overspread with a population of Scottish Protestants.

They resided in Ireland in tolerable security and comfort more than a quarter of a century, founding numerous churches and presbyteries, and introducing into the country a new era of civilization and agricultural improvement. The Catholic *Irish*, the original Celtic population, regarded them, however, with prejudice and aversion, as foreigners, heretics, and intruders on their lands —

they felt their presence as an odious restraint, a humiliating memorial of their own subjugation. The animosity smouldering in their breasts, like explosive elements pent up in the bowels of the earth, burst forth, 1641, into open rebellion. The civil troubles then existing in England, inspired the hope that from that quarter the Protestants could look for no succor. In one day, Oct. 23d, in execution of a deep laid but carefully concealed plot of the Irish Catholics, many thousand English and Scottish Protestants were massacred before they could provide for defence or even suspect danger. It was like a sudden, sweeping hurricane. Those who escaped the slaughter lived for several succeeding years in inquietude and danger, until at length the strong arm of Cromwell, 1649, subdued and disarmed the Irish. The fact that the Papists were deprived of their arms, while the Protestants retained theirs, is said to have given rise to the Scotch-Irish custom of firing guns at wedding festivals, in token of superiority over their enemies.

From 1684 to 1688, the colonists in Ireland received from Scotland accessions to their numbers, consisting of refugees, Scottish Covenanters, who fled their country to avoid the bloody executions of Graham of Claverhouse, a name never pronounced by Protestant lips without execration; who, under the auspices of the tyrant, James II, persecuted the Protestants of Scotland to the death. Among these refugees were the McKeanes, the McGregors, the Cargills, and others, some of whom were the ancestors of persons now resident of Antrim.

The courage, loyalty, and Protestantism of these Scottish colonists were put to a severe test in the memorable siege of the city of Londonderry, 1689. That arbitrary Popish bigot, James II, had been expelled from his throne the preceding year, and succeeded by William III, a Protestant prince of liberal views. This great revolution, the news of which was received in New England with joy unbounded, dashed the hopes of the Catholics of restoring Papal supremacy in Britain, and gave promise of security to the Protestant religion. James, who had fled to France, resolved on an attempt to recover his crown, and having received aid in men and money from the King of France, crossed over to Ireland and found such resources in the sympathy and zeal of the Irish Catholics, as enabled him to raise a formidable army. His plan was, to pass with his force from the north of Ireland to the west of Scotland, to rally to his standard the powerful clans of the Catholic Highlanders, and with this great augmentation of strength to invade England, and bear down all opposition. To the execution of this design, the possession of the city of Londonderry, the population of which, and the surrounding region, was in large measure Scottish and Protestant, was essential. Several treacherous efforts to seize the city by stratagem, were detected and baffled. It was at length invested by a powerful Irish army, who pushed the siege with the utmost vigor. Never was made a braver defence.

Guided and animated by the Governors of their own choice, the Rev. George Walker and Col. Henry Baker, the Protestant defenders of the city, aware that not only a kingdom but also their religious liberties were at stake, repelled, during a siege of eight months, assault after assault, till their ranks were thinned and their stores exhausted. To such extremities of want were they reduced, that a quarter of dog's flesh sold for five shillings, six-pence; a dog's head for two shillings; a pound of horse-flesh twenty pence; a cat four shillings six-pence; a rat, one shilling; a mouse, six-pence. Many feared they should be compelled to resort for food to the bodies of the dead. At length, vessels despatched from England with provisions, forced their way with infinite difficulty to the city, and were hailed by the famished defenders with acclamations of joy. Baffled and disheartened, the Irish army, having lost some thousands of men by sword, and; camp diseases, raised the siege and withdrew. From some of these heroic defenders of the city, a few of the present inhabitants of Antrim can claim descent to the McKears, Cochrans, Dinsmoors, and perhaps others.

The successful defence of Londonderry, followed by the victory of William over James at the Boyne water, and the speedy subjugation of all Ireland, gave to the harrassed Protestants safety and quiet. They could worship God agreeably to their own sense of duty, without molestation, and lived for many succeeding years in comparative comfort.

Their condition, however, was not without distasteful circumstances. Rents and taxes were burdensome; and in addition to the voluntary support of their own ministers, they must pay tithes for the support of the established church. It was natural for men who had suffered so much in defence of liberty, to thirst for a more perfect degree of it than was attainable under a monarchical government, an established church, and a landed aristocracy. Flattering accounts of the rich and cheap soil, plenty, and personal independence attainable in America, were wafted to them by almost every western breeze; inducing numbers to think of a removal to the New World. Early in 1718, a large company of clergymen, tradesmen, and farmers sent an agent to ascertain from Gov. Shute of Massachusetts on what terms they could obtain grants of land:—the agent, Rev. Mr. Boyd, received from the Governor every necessary encouragement, and carried back a report so favorable, that in the latter part of the year five vessels, laden with emigrants and their effects, sailed from the north of Ireland for Boston. On their arrival, a part of them settled in that city, and after some years founded a church, originally Presbyterian, but since known as "Federal Street Church." Another portion settled in other places in the central and western parts of Massachusetts, as Lunenburg, Worcester, Palmer, Pelham, and Colrairie. A third portion of these emigrants had lived in Ireland under the ministry of Rev. James McGregor, who accompanied them to America; they wished to settle

together in a compact body, and to enjoy the services of Mr. McGregor as their pastor. To facilitate the exploration of the country, in order to the selection of a proper location, they divided themselves into several parties, and passed their first winter in America in different places, as Andover, Dracut, and Casco Bay.

The party who wintered at Casco Bay, near Portland in Maine, suffered much from cold and want of provisions. Not pleased with the lands in that region, they returned in spring to Haverhill, Ms., and soon selected *Nutfield*, since called Londonderry, as their future home. The plantation was begun April, 1719, by sixteen families, that of Mr. McGregor being one of the number; a wise and excellent minister, whose name is held in honor to this day. Accessions poured in rapidly; many families of their countrymen were added to them that same season; in a few years, the church they founded in the wilderness contained about 300 communicants. They took the utmost pains to obtain a good title, both legal and moral, to their lands. Lieut. Gov. Wentworth, then presiding over New-Hampshire, essentially befriended them. From these people sprang the first settlers of Antrim, Peterboro', New-Boston, Bedford, and many other towns in New-Hampshire, Vermont, New-York, Maine, and Nova Scotia. Not improbably their descendants, in the United States and the British Provinces, are at this time not less than 50,000 souls;—Parker carries the estimate much higher.

President Dwight justly pronounces Londonderry to have been the most respectable Scottish settlement in New-England. The settlers brought with them the foot spinning-wheel, and soon manufactured large quantities of fine linen cloth and thread, which gained in market a high reputation; the sale of these articles in distant towns and provinces, gave to many persons a profitable employment, and laid the foundation of some of the largest fortunes in the counties of Rockingham and Hillsboro'. They were the first who introduced into the State, to any considerable extent, the cultivation of the potatoe. Londonderry presented, more than a century ago, many commodious buildings and well-cultivated farms. Among the descendants of this people, are several of the Governors of New-Hampshire, many members of Congress, eminent ministers of the gospel, and some military men of high distinction, both in the revolutionary war, and in that of 1812.

Many of the native New-Englanders at first regarded the settlers of Londonderry with prejudice and suspicion, called them *Irish*, and ignorantly imagined they must be Papists. Better acquaintance dispelled these illusions, and made their English neighbors to understand that between the *Scotch* Irish and the *proper* or *Celtic* Irish, there was a striking difference in point of race, language, manners, and religion.

The Scotch-Irish were a people of simple habits, of little artificial refinement, but of sterling intelligence; high-spirited, quick in their resentment, of great

plainness of speech ; generous in their feelings ; lovers of wit and repartee ; constant in their friendships ; courageous and independent in their feelings and bearing ; possessed of deep reverence for the institutions of Christianity, and immovably attached to the religious principles of their fathers. Their hospitality was unbounded, being freely tendered both to friend and stranger, and as readily accepted. Great frankness in avowing their religious principles was a trait of their character always prominent ; not that they were apt to obtrude the subject on others, but if what they deemed cardinal religious truths were assailed, they were not men to stand mute. Their fearless defence of principle often approached almost to that recommended by John Randolph to his colored servant, with whom he ascended a lofty mountain ; when, excited and transported by the glorious prospect spread out before him, he said, " Jack, if hereafter any body says there is no God, do you tell him he lies ! "

Of two other traits of their character, truth will not permit a representation so favorable. Drinking together was regarded as a pledge of friendship, and it was thought to be a matter rather venial to drink, provided they did not get *down*. The other objectionable trait was a propensity to settle little personal difficulties by a boxing-match. These traits are now effaced ; or no more prominent among them than among those of English derivation. There were many redeeming traits : if a man had hard thoughts of a neighbor, he did not vent them in private slander ; there was no "*snake-in-the-grass*" management ; he went with a bold step, erect gait, and loud voice to expostulate with the offender ; if their anger was easily kindled, it was as easily appeased, when they would be good friends as ever.

In their wedding ceremonies were some peculiarities. All their relatives, however distant in consanguinity, and the neighbors, must be invited, two or three days beforehand ; a short notice being considered as a slight. The bridegroom and his friends set out on horse-back for the abode of the bride, and were met on the way by a party of the bride's male friends and relatives :— each party selected a champion "*to run for the bottle*" to the house of the bride's father ; the one who arrived soonest being considered as the victor. They returned with the bottle to the company on the road, all drank, and then proceeded together to the scene of the wedding, being saluted from the houses on the way by the firing of guns, and themselves firing a salute on their arrival at the bride's residence. If any in adjacent houses felt themselves slighted by not being invited, they sometimes vented their spleen by firing squibs instead of a full charge ; one instance of this kind is said to have occurred in Antrim.

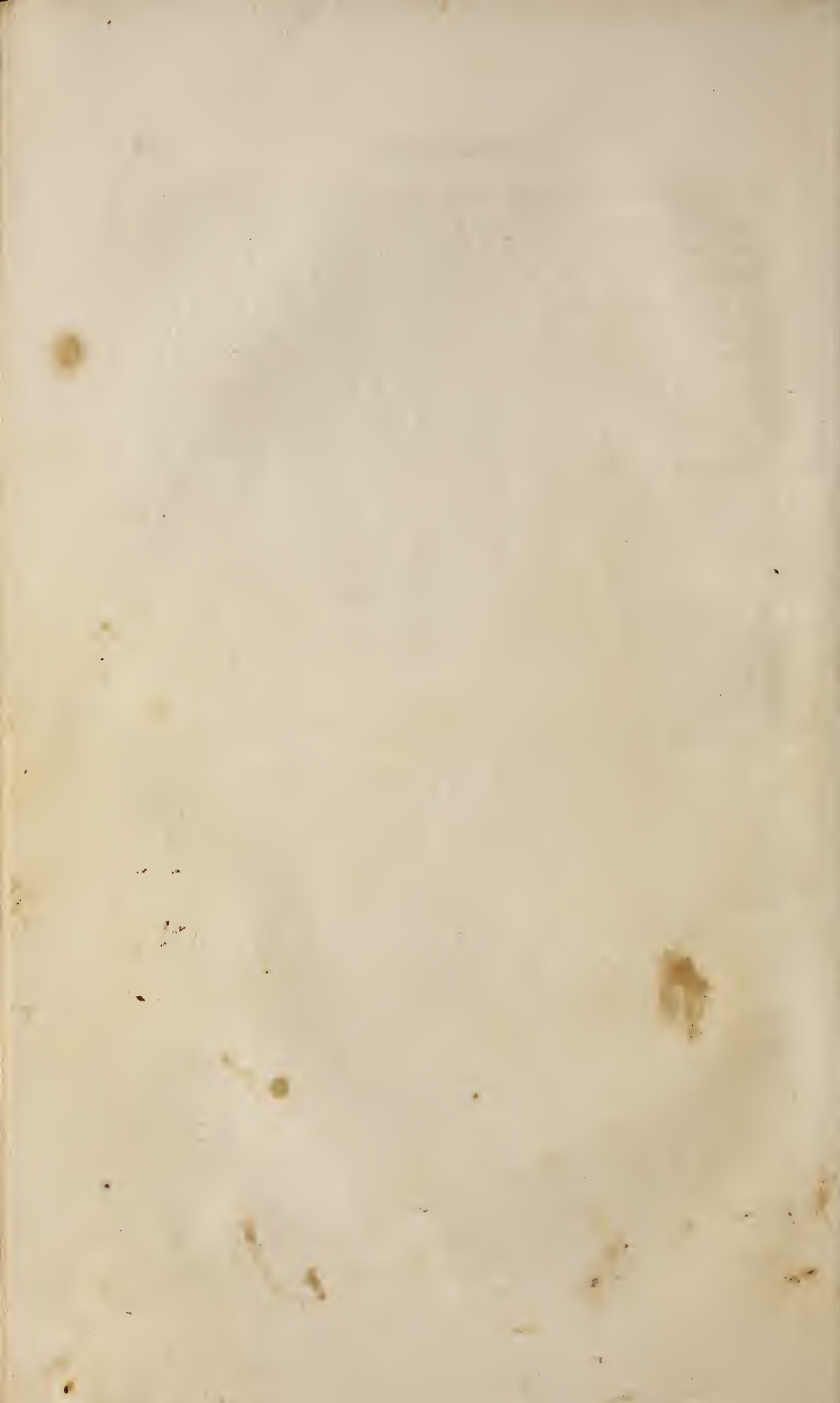
At funerals, all labor was suspended, people walked miles to the house of mourning, and spirituous liquor was passed round the whole assembly, both before and after the religious service.

These usages and peculiarities were quite perceptible in the early days of Antrim ; modified indeed, and somewhat assimilated to those of English origin by a half a century's residence in America ; yet presenting, at that time, points of contrast, indicative of a different race. The speech of the early settlers was considerably marked with the *brogue*, the broad Scottish pronunciation ; and contained some words purely Scottish. To English ears this brogue was rather pleasant ; it seemed to add force and emphasis to the expression. One of the former ministers of Londonderry having preached an election sermon before the Legislature of the State, one of the members, on a motion to print the usual number of copies, remarked that he should move to increase the number, if the *brogue* could be printed with the rest of it. The two races, English and Scotch-Irish, are now, in this region, so intermingled by marriage and assimilated by social intercourse that almost the last vestiges of these peculiarities have disappeared ; and instead of some shade of prejudice formerly existing, there is now subsisting between them mutual respect and cordial good will.

The Scottish character has certainly a substratum of great energy and excellence. The emigrants from the north of Ireland, and their immediate descendants in New Hampshire, were a frugal and hardy, yet generous and well-principled people ; diligent readers of the Bible ; strict observers of the Sabbath ; constant attendants on public worship, walking, if needful, many miles to the church rather than be absent ; great abhorrrers both of Popery and Infidelity ; attentive to the moral and religious instruction of their children, taking them to the parish *catechizings* formerly observed in the Presbyterian church, and causing them to commit to memory perfectly, not only the shorter, but in many instances the longer catechism of the Westminster Assembly of Divines.

They brought with them many memorials of the "father-land," treasured up in memory, in the form of ballads, songs, stories, and "catches of history ;" most of which are now lost. Some of them met with thrilling incidents on the passage, of which we will give a sample or two. A passenger vessel, in which was a Mrs. Wilson, was taken by a pirate ship ; soon after the capture Mrs. W. gave birth to a daughter, an event which so awakened the sensibilities of the pirate captain, who had a wife and children at home, that he permitted the passenger ship to proceed on her voyage unharmed, having given Mrs. Wilson a silk dress and other valuables, and requested that the child might be called after the name of his own wife, *Mary*. Among the descendants of this Mary Wilson, thus ushered into the world in the memorable "*pirate ship*," are some who have been natives and residents of Antrim. Another ship, which brought to this country a company of emigrants in 1740, was long talked of as "*the starved ship*." One of the passengers was Samuel Fisher, afterwards known as Dea. Fisher, whose descendants now amount to almost one thousand. The provisions

were so far exhausted, that only one pint of oat-meal and a very little water remained to each person. Mr. Fisher and the rest of the passengers and crew, subsisted fourteen days on one table-spoonful of meal to each person per day, moistened with salt water. They were at length driven to the dreadful necessity of feeding on the bodies of some who had died; and at last of casting lots to determine who should die to preserve the rest! The lot fell on Mr. Fisher; but in the critical hour a vessel hove in sight, saw their signal of distress, and supplied their wants. It was said of him, "that in after life, he could never see, without pain, the least morsel of food wasted, or a pail of water thrown carelessly on the ground." Some Antrim families have been connected by marriage with some of his posterity.



CIVIL HISTORY OF ANTRIM,

FROM 1744 TO 1844.

"WE will tell you, if you listen,
How a hundred years ago,
Pilgrims saw our waters glisten
In the valley, far below.
Where the forest, grand and lovely,
In primeval beauty stood ;
And the wandering red men, only,
Knew the windings thro' the wood.
Where our household fires are burning,
Wild deer bounded, far and free :
Streams, our busy mill-wheels turning,
Idly sang a song of glee ;
Where our Fathers sat beside them,
After travel long and sore—
Fearing nought that could betide them,
Might they find a HOME once more.

For a home they fronted danger—
Wrought with rifle lying near :
To all luxury a stranger
Was the dauntless *Pioneer*. .
Noble Fathers ! silent lying
In your graves, rest — stern and cold :
Still ye preach with voice undying,
To your children, from the mould !
And ye tell us, 'Love each other ;
Guard the homes we toiled to win—
Let no hatred of your brother,
Doubt or malice entertain.
Chiefly on each household altar
Keep devotion burning bright ;
Then ye will not pause or falter,
In the doing of the right.' "

From the Litchfield County Centennial.

INDIAN and French wars desolated many of the frontier settlements of New-England, during most of the period from 1675 to 1713. Explorers and hunters found it perilous to adventure far into the interior wilderness, which was traversed by Indian enemies. The only settlement then existing within the present County of Hillsboro', was Dunstable, now Nashua. The western part of the County was not only a wilderness, but a region nearly unknown. After the peace of Utrecht, 1713, enterprising settlers soon began to establish themselves in Amherst, Merrimac, Hollis, Litchfield, and the vicinity, and hunters penetrated into the valley of the Contoocook, in quest of the moose, bear, deer, beaver, and other fur-producing animals, with which the forests abounded. Tradition says that the celebrated Lovewell, who fell at last in the bloody conflict with the Indians at Pequawket, once led a scouting party, prior to 1725, from Nashua to the present town of Washington, in search of Indians ; and the circumstance that a mountain near East-Washington bears his name, lends to the tradition an air of probability. He must have passed through or near the northeast portion of Antrim. In the quarter century from 1715 to 1740, the fine valley of the Contoocook became pretty well known. Near the close of this period, Massachusetts, then claiming a large slice of the present New-Hampshire, and hoping that settlements formed under her auspices would strengthen her claim of jurisdiction, made several grants of land in this region :

among them, that of New-Boston, 1736; of Peterboro', 1738; and of Lyndeboro' and Hillsboro' about the same time; the grants being soon followed by the immigration of inhabitants.

In 1741, the line between Massachusetts and New-Hampshire, which had been the subject of long and violent disputes, was definitively determined by the royal authority, in a manner gratifying to New-Hampshire, and distasteful to Massachusetts.

That the territory, now constituting Antrim, was the hunting-ground of Indians of the Penacook tribe, and the occasional residence of some of them, is certain. Indian graves were found by an early settler on the farm, now Mr. Dow's; and traces of an ancient corn-field, the hills being distinctly visible, on the farm, now Jesse Goodell's. Indian relics of stone in various localities have been turned up by the plow. An Indian stone pipe, of neat construction and tastefully ornamented, was found imbedded in sand in the crevice of a rock, near Esq. Parmenter's, where it had been perhaps for ages. The chief seats of the Penacook Indians were at Concord and Manchester. Their Sachem, when the English first became acquainted with them, was the celebrated Passaconaway, who made his subjects believe that he was almost a Divinity; that he could make trees dance and water burn. This tribe, once familiar with these streams and mountains, emigrated to Canada a century and a quarter ago.

There is some reason to believe that one of the parties of early English hunters, who traversed these hills and forests before a settlement was effected, met a tragical fate within the present limits of Antrim. More than sixty years ago, a Mr. Puffer, then living on the farm now Artemas Brown's, plowed up, on the flat, south of his house, the greater portion of the skeleton of a man. Not far distant, he discovered two old graves, each having a head and foot stone, rough, yet plainly visible. On the bank of the adjacent brook he discovered the ruins of a hunter's camp; the logs being quite decayed, yet exhibiting plainly the size and form of the camp. On the side of one of the graves grew a beech tree, apparently thirty or forty years old. The appearances induced Puffer and others to believe that the bones, graves and camp, were not relics of Indians; but that a party of three hunters had been attacked by some infectious disease; that as one died, the others buried him; that when a second died, the survivor buried him also; that when he died, none being left to bury him, his body remained above ground, was gradually covered with leaves and dust, and the bones were at length turned up by the plow. The explanation is conjectural, but perhaps the most probable that can be given.

A few families had made openings in the forest, and erected their log cabins, in the vicinity of the present Bridge Village, in Hillsboro', a little prior to 1744. One of their associates was Philip Riley, a native of Ireland, who had resided for a time in Sudbury, Ms. He began, 1744, to make a farm; the one now occupied by Hon. Jacob Whittemore, and built a small log house. The place was supposed at the time to be included within the limits of Hills-

boro', but afterwards on the adjustment of the lines it was found to fall into Antrim. Riley was the pioneer of the settlement of the place.

Two years afterwards he was compelled to flee. April 26, 1746, a party of Indians attacked a garrisoned house in Hopkinton, the inmates being asleep, and the door having been left open by one who had gone out early to feed the cattle; the enemy rushed in, and led off eight captives into the wilderness. This event spread alarm through the infant settlements on Contoocook river; the few families in Hillsboro' deserted their habitations, repaired to places of safety in the lower towns, and did not return till after the lapse of fifteen years. Riley went with them, having buried or concealed whatever of his effects he could not carry away. He went to Concord, Ms. During his fifteen years' absence, Antrim was uninhabited, and unvisited, except now and then by hunters, and by one surveying party.

In 1746, a company of gentlemen in Portsmouth purchased of the heirs of John Mason, the original grantee of New-Hampshire, all their claims on the vacant lands within the Province. By the politic measure of quitclaiming all the towns that had been previously granted by New-Hampshire, and afterwards the townships that had been granted by Massachusetts, they prevented any effectual opposition to their title. These purchasers were often called at that day, *the Lord Proprietors*. The large tract of land between Hillsboro' on the north, Peterboro' on the south, New-Boston and Lyndeboro' on the east, having never been granted by either Province, fell of course into the hands of these Proprietors, and from the circumstance of its being owned by them in company, it was called "*The Society Land*." The name, "*Cumberland*," sometimes given it in early times, soon fell into disuse. It included Antrim, Hancock, Bennington, Deering, and the west portions of Francestown and Greenfield.

The peace of 1748 being followed by a few years of respite from the calamities of war, the Proprietors were enabled, 1753, to cause a survey to be made of the Society Land, without danger of molestation from the Indians. Robert Fletcher, with a party of men, executed the work, and divided the whole tract into fifteen shares. The time was about midway between Riley's departure and return.

The capture of Quebec in 1759, followed by the conquest of all Canada from the French, having removed the danger of Indian incursions, the refugees from Hillsboro' returned to their homes, 1761, and found the inclosed frame of a meeting-house, erected prior to the abandonment of the town, burnt; probably by some reckless hunters. Riley returned at the same time to Antrim, and found his axe and chains safe in the hollow log where he had hid them. A thick growth of young cherries and poplars had overspread his "clearing," and so effectually concealed his little log cabin, that it required some search to find it. In the six following years, his was the only family in town; he was, however, near to neighbors in Hillsboro'.

In 1766, the Masonian Proprietors published an advertisement, setting forth the fertility of the lands on Contoocook river, and

inviting young men to visit and examine them. This induced seven young men from Londonderry, James Aiken, William Smith, James Duncan, James Hogg, George and James Otterson, and — Perry, to come the same season, and view the region, under the impression that the proprietors would *give* to each a lot of land, to encourage the settlement. They were pleased with the lands, made some small openings in the forest near the South Village, and returned to Londonderry to pass the winter. The next year, James Aiken removed his family, consisting of himself, wife, and four children, into a log cabin built on the first spot of dry land he came to on this side the river, a little east of Thayer's mill yard, Aug. 12, 1767; expecting to be soon followed by his associates in the exploration of the preceding year. He was doomed in this respect to a severe disappointment. It being ascertained that the lands were attainable, not as a *donation*, but only by purchase, some of them relinquished the enterprise altogether, and the rest resolved to postpone the matter.

Unexpectedly left alone in the wilderness, Aiken, afterwards Dea. Aiken, who was a man of fortitude, energy and perseverance, resolved to make the best of his situation. He had, as he supposed, proof of a promise from the proprietors of a lot of land, as a donation; but in the end was compelled to pay for it at half a pistareen per acre, the land being that which now constitutes the farm of Mr. McKean. The nearest neighbor on the west was John Bellows, of Walpole; on the north, Riley, at the distance of five miles; two settlers had planted themselves in Hancock, three in Deering, and five in Francetown. In autumn, his swine, ranging the woods for beechnuts, were killed by a bear. Late in the season, Thomas Nichols, a lad who had run away in discontent from a master in Newburyport, came to Dea. Aiken's for concealment, and remained for a good while, a useful inmate of his house. He soon shot the bear that had killed the swine; having in jest promised beforehand to have that bear "to grease his beard;" and not long after killed a moose near the spot now occupied by Mrs. Crane's barn.

The state of the surrounding country at this time may be inferred from the results of a census taken this year, which gave to Hillsboro' 64 inhabitants; to Peterboro' 443; to Lyndeboro', then including the eastern section of Greenfield, 272; to New-Boston 296. The only settled minister in the region was the Rev. Mr. Morrison, of Peterboro'. Rev. Mr. Moor had begun to preach in New-Boston, but was not ordained till the following year.

In February, 1768, Dea. Aiken lost a young child by sickness. He had no materials for a coffin but split pieces of ash, and no one to aid him in the burial but the lad, Nichols. An immense body of snow covered the ground. He buried the child in his own field, near the site of the house recently built by George C. Duncan. The next April, on the 15th, was born Polly, daughter of Deacon Aiken; this being the first birth in the town. She married Eben'r Kimball, once of Antrim, afterwards of Hill; survived her husband, and is yet living, very aged, in Rindge. About four years after, was born James

Aiken, son of Deacon James, the first born male child in the place, and now living in the State of New-York.

The nearest grain mills were at Hillsboro', Peterboro', and New-Boston. In the summer, Dea. Aiken went to New-Boston for corn, and was detained there by illness four days. In his absence the cows strayed away, and two days were spent in searching for them, in vain. The second night, the mother put her children to bed, supperless and crying for hunger; not, however, without kneeling down by the bed-side, and commending them to God. Next morning was the Sabbath; Nichols discovered pigeons on a tree, asked Mrs. Aiken if it would be wrong to shoot them on Sunday, and was told that as they were starving it was a work of necessity. He made a bad shot, killing but one pigeon; that one pigeon, however, with a few ground nuts, made a broth which relieved their hunger. Toward night the cows, which had wandered over the river, far away, were found near the present centre of Greenfield. The task of transporting his grain to a distant mill, and of bringing the meal home, was among the hardest that fell to his lot. On one occasion, the Deacon and the lad who was in his service, started for the nearest mill, at Hillsboro', carrying on their backs a bushel and a half of grain. Arriving at the nearest house, five miles from his own, he learned that the mill was broken and could not be repaired for some days. Leaving his grain, he returned. Necessity impelled to a second effort. Having neither horse nor road, he had the alternative of carrying a load to the mill in Peterboro', either on his back, or by a canoe voyage up the river. He chose the latter, loaded the canoe with grain, towed it with great fatigue up the stream, and arrived at night within three miles of the mill, when by same mishap the canoe was overset, and the bags went to the bottom. Before they could be recovered, the grain was soaked and spoiled.

In 1769 he built a barn, the first framed building in town, on the spot now occupied by the barn of Mr. McKean. He had previously cut the logs for the boards and plank near Hillsboro' bridge, procured them to be sawed there, and transported the boards to his place on the ice of the river. He built the same season a new log house. The bark being peeled from the logs, and leaving them white, his children felt quite proud of their new *white* house. It stood on the site of Mr. McKean's old house, now occupied by Starks Hadley.

A great freshet occurred, March, 1770, making the river for a time impassable. Mrs. Aiken at this time gave birth to her youngest daughter, the family being destitute of bread, and seeing none for some weeks. As soon as the river was passable, her husband went to New-Boston for a nurse and supplies, leaving her in the care of her elder children, aided by John Gordon, a Scottish Highlander. Not long after, a stranger knocked at the Deacon's door one evening, and offered to work in his service for his board. He gave his name as George Bemain; was a foreigner, born on the seas, of middle age, a deserter from the British at Boston; had followed marked trees, and swam the streams, in search of a place of concealment. Next

morning he took up a Bible, remarking that he had scarce seen a good book for forty years, and would try himself at reading. He proved to be a good reader, resided in the family some years, and made himself useful by laboring on the farm, and teaching the children to read. He taught the first school in Hillsboro', and is said to have been in youth a school-mate of the well-known Dilworth, author of the spelling-book used in England and America a century ago. Enlisting into the army, he finally lost his life in the American cause, in the battle of White Plains. In the course of the summer, John Duncan and William Smith visited the place, were pleased with the lands, and purchased each a lot at half a pistareen an acre.

Dea. Aiken, having spent four years as the only occupant of South-Antrim, had the pleasure to receive a near neighbor, by the removal of William Smith hither, 1771, who built a house a little south of Henry Hills'. Aiken and Smith were men of congenial spirit, pious, and happy in each other's society. As an instance of their unbounded mutual confidence, it is said that Aiken having bought a pair of oxen of Smith, and given his note for the money, Smith said to him, "I have no desk, do you keep the note till I call for it." Aiken kept the note, uncalled for, till he was ready to pay it; then delivered it safe to Smith, and immediately redeemed it, by paying the full amount.

In 1772, Randall Alexander began the farm, now Mr. Dow's; John Gordon and Maurice Lynch began settlements at the North Branch. Soon after Gordon planted himself here, Philip Riley undertook to make him a visit, laying his course from his home, (now Judge Whittemore's,) across the mountain. Darkness came on sooner than he expected, he became bewildered on the mountain, and was forced to lie out in the woods. Next morning he found his way to Gordon's, and, after relating his mishap, said, the mountain should ever after be called "Riley's Mountain."

This is the date of a visit to Antrim, a narrative of which was given at the celebrated Festival of the Sons of New-Hampshire, in Boston, 1849, and excited a good deal of interest. Mr. Samuel Gregg, the oldest son of New-Hampshire present, stated his distinct recollection, that his parents, residing in Peterboro', determined to visit their nearest neighbor on the river, James Aiken, of Antrim. On a cold winter's day, his mother threw on her the scarlet cloak, worn by the great-grandmothers of the present generation, and walked with her husband on the ice of the river, twelve miles, to Antrim. On their arrival, they found their friends absent, having gone on a visit to New-Boston. Jane, the eldest daughter, about twelve years old, prepared for them the refreshment of a cup of tea and a *short-cake*, then considered a first rate article, an almost indispensable accompaniment of tea for company; an article truly excellent, as baked by our great-grandmothers before a glowing bed of coals. After tea the disappointed visitants retraced their steps on the river ice, arriving at their home in the evening, wearied with the long and fruitless walk. Their return was none too soon. That very night brought a

sudden change of weather, and a rain so powerful as to break up the ice of the river; and there being a great depth of snow and no roads, their return home, had they lingered on their visit, had been for weeks impracticable. Mr. Gregg, after relating at the Festival this incident, offered the following sentiment:—"The first settlers of New-Hampshire; their privations and virtues can never be forgotten by natives of the Granite State."

Another of Dea. Aiken's children died this season, and was buried in a spot fifty or sixty rods east of Dea. Nichols', where it was then supposed the centre of the town might be established. He removed to this spot the remains of the child, whom he had buried in his own field. Several other children were here laid in graves. When the old burying-ground on Meeting-House hill was laid out and inclosed, some of these children were disinterred and removed to that cemetery, while the dust of others was suffered to remain undisturbed. The graves are now obliterated, and the precise location cannot be ascertained.

John Duncan, afterwards Esquire, removed his family here, making the seventh in the place, 1773. The cart on which his goods were transported from Londonderry, being the first that ever entered the town, was driven by his uncle, the Hon. John Bell, father of the late Governors Samuel and John Bell. The river was passed by fording at a sand bar near the mouth of Great Brook. One of Mr. Duncan's daughters, Naomi, then a little girl in her fourth year, the wife of Dea. Robert Duncan, is still living, having resided in town seventy-nine years; sprightly for one of her years, and able constantly to attend public worship.

In 1774, Joseph Boyd, James Duncan, Daniel McFarland and James Dickey settled in the south-east part of the town; John Warren and James Moor at the North Branch. The same year, John Burns began the farm in the High Range, a part of which is occupied by Widow Weston; and a man named Hutchinson, from Amherst, made a "clearing" on the lot west of Mr. Webster's. On the approach of winter, Burns returned to New-Boston, whence he came; and having exchanged his lot in Antrim with his brother Robert, for a place in New-Boston, he never came back to reside here, Robert taking his place. John was a man of energy and perseverance. While a resident here, he once went a hunting up North Branch river with Moses Steele, of Hillsboro'. Steele crossed the river to the north bank, while Burns kept the south. A bear discovered and pursued Steele, who fled across the stream toward Burns; the bear still pursuing and entering the water. Steele turned to fire at the animal, but in cocking his gun, his flint dropped into the water. He cried to Burns to flee, or climb a tree! who coolly replied that he would take care of himself, then fired and killed the bear, which had come almost up to Steele. Mr. Burns represented New-Boston in the Legislature, half a century ago; removed thence to Whitefield, N. H., being the first settler of that town; represented that place in the Legislature a few years ago, when eighty years old; was much the eldest member, and was regarded

with respect as the Father of the House. About 1848, he visited Antrim, performing the journey of one hundred and forty miles in a waggon, alone. He died, 1852.

Additional settlers came, 1775, or very soon after: Alexander Jameson, Matthew Templeton, Richard McAlister, Thomas Stuart, and John McClary. By a census taken this year, the population of *Society Land* was 177. From the *original* Society Land, a portion had been detached, 1772, to aid in the formation of the town of Francestown; and in 1774, another and larger portion, constituting the whole of the town of Deering. What remained to constitute Society Land as it existed in 1775, was Antrim, Hancock, the western section of Greenfield, and the greater portion of Bennington. Of this sum total of 177 inhabitants, not more than sixty, or at the most seventy, lived within the present limits of Antrim.

Lexington battle, April 19th, electrified the country. The spring was early and the grass-fields green. Men either flew with speed, or fired guns to give the alarm to their neighbors. The scattered inhabitants of Society Land promptly assembled at Dea. Aiken's, elected Isaac Butterfield, of Greenfield, their Captain, and marched forthwith toward Boston, to defend the liberties of their country: a band of as brave hearts and as true patriotism as could be found in America. Next morning, the women came together with the provisions they had prepared during the night; and after a fervent prayer by William Smith, his female auditory being in tears, he set out with a load of provisions to overtake the company, John Gordon being the only adult male left in town. The company proceeded to Tyngsboro', there met Gen. Stark, who told them there were men enough near Boston, and advised them to return and plant their corn, holding themselves ready to march at a moment's warning: adding, that however rusty their guns, he knew of no men with whom he would sooner trust his life in the hour of battle. On being thus advised, the company returned.

No inhabitant of Antrim was personally engaged in the battle of Bunker Hill, June 17th. On the next day, Burns and Hutchinson, who had resided here the preceding season, adventured to go to a deserted house on Charlestown Neck, thinking they might perchance pick up some articles that would be useful. While there, a cannon ball from a British ship of war struck Hutchinson, wounding him so badly, that though he was carried off into the American lines, he died in two days.

The first sermon ever delivered in Antrim was in September, 1775, by Rev. Mr. Davidson, of Londonderry, in Deacon Aiken's barn. A few weeks afterwards the Rev. Mr. McGregor, of Londonderry, preached the first sermon ever delivered in Francestown, in Dea. Hopkins' barn, on the Gibson place. To this meeting several children were carried from Antrim to be baptized.

A saw-mill, the first in the place, was built, 1776, by John Warren, at the present North Branch village. Later in the season, James Aiken and Joseph Boyd built another on Great Brook, on the site of

Thayer's mill. The same year a bridge was built over Contoocook river, east of Dea. Baldwin's, and made barely passable, but was not finished till three years after. To be told that in early times it was called the *Great Bridge*, may provoke a smile on the part of those familiar with bridges of modern erection; but it was truly *great*, contrasted with the poverty and fewness of the builders.

The precise date of the organization of the first military company in town has not been ascertained. Its officers were, John Duncan, Captain; Thomas Nichols, Lieutenant; James Dickey, Ensign. That the organization must have been as early as 1776, is certain from the circumstance, that in the Charter of Incorporation, granted early the next year, John Duncan is styled *Captain*; also from the fact, that about the time of the battle of White Plains, near New-York, Sept. 1776, James Dickey, being placed as a sentry at night, disappeared, and was never more heard of. Various conjectures were formed in relation to his fate, but all were veiled in uncertainty. He was a young married man of much promise, and his loss was lamented. In the battle of White Plains, just referred to, George Bemain, who had lived some years in town, and had enlisted in the American service, was killed.

At this period the people were able to obtain only one or two Sabbath's preaching in a year, furnished, in most instances gratuitously, by neighboring ministers; the Rev. Messrs. Morrison, of Peterboro', Goodridge, of Lyndeboro', Moor, of New-Boston, Houston, of Bedford, and Barnes, of Hillsboro'. On one occasion of this kind, Dea. Aiken was conveying Mr. Morrison here in a boat, on the river, there being no road; when by some accident the boat was upset, both were plunged into deep water, and Mr. Morrison narrowly escaped drowning.

The year 1777 is an eventful one in the history of the town. There being about twenty families, and twenty-three resident freeholders, they felt the necessity of an Incorporation, conferring on them town powers and privileges, and appointed John Duncan their agent to present their petition to this effect, and to sustain it before the Legislature. He obtained the Act, March 22d, and at his request the place was called *Antrim*, after the County of that name in Ireland, whence the fathers, or grandfathers of the first settlers had emigrated to America. It was to include the northern half of the unincorporated land west of Contoocook river, between Hillsboro' and Peterboro'. The lines had been previously run by Fletcher, of Portsmouth, and Col. Blanchard, of Amherst; John Duncan, James Aiken, and Daniel Nichols, being chain-carriers. The southern half of the tract was incorporated two years afterwards by the name of Hancock. A copy of the Charter is subjoined, as a document not uninteresting to the present and future generations:—

"In the year of our Lord, 1777.

STATE OF NEW - HAMPSHIRE.

AN ACT to incorporate part of a place called the Society Land, in the County of Hillsborough, in the State of New-Hampshire.



Whereas, a petition has been preferred to the General Court in behalf of the inhabitants of a part of that tract of land in the County of Hillsboro', setting forth that for want of an Incorporation they were exposed to many difficulties and inconveniences, and praying that they may be incorporated : of which due notice has been given, and no objection having been made to it, and it appearing to be for the public good,—

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED by the Council and House of Representatives, and by the authority of the same it is enacted, that there be and hereby is a Township erected and incorporated by the name of ANTRIM, within the following bounds, viz :—Beginning at the north-westerly corner of Deering, and thence running southerly by said Deering, according to the course of Contoocook river, which is the westerly line of Deering, till it comes opposite to the easterly end of the line between the great lots, number three and four; thence running from the said river, westerly, to the northeasterly corner of said lot numbered Three; thence running still westerly on the said line between the said lots, to the easterly line of Packersfield, (now Nelson;) thence running northerly by said Packersfield and by Stoddard, to Campbell's Gore, so called, (now Windsor;) thence running easterly by said Campbell's Gore, and by Hillsboro', to the bound where it began. And the inhabitants of said tract of land are erected into a body politic and corporate, to have continuance and succession forever; and are hereby invested with all the powers, and enfranchised with all the rights, privileges, and immunities which any town in this State hold and enjoy. To hold to the inhabitants of said tract of land and their successors, forever.

And Capt. John Duncan, of said Antrim, is hereby authorized and empowered to call a meeting of said inhabitants, to choose all necessary and customary Town Officers, giving at least fourteen days notice of the time, place, and design of such meeting; and such officers shall hereby be invested with all the powers of the like officers in any other town in the State. And every other meeting which shall be held annually in said town for that purpose, shall be on the second Tuesday of March annually, forever.

STATE OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE. In the House of Representatives, March 21, 1777. The foregoing bill having been read a third time, Voted, that it pass to be enacted. Sent up for concurrence.

John Dudley, Speaker pr. tem.

IN COUNCIL, March 22, 1777. This Act, having been read a third time, Voted, that the same be enacted.

M. Weare, President.

A true copy : Attest,

E. Thompson, Sec'y."

The first town meeting was holden May 1st, when Maurice Lynch was elected Town Clerk, and Thomas Stuart, James Aiken, and Richard McAlister, the first board of Selectmen. The town appointed Lynch to make the necessary surveys to ascertain the centre, to receive for his services a quarter dollar per day. It was agreed that each resident freeholder pay one shilling, to defray the charge of obtaining the Act of Incorporation. At a subsequent town meeting, Aug. 20th, at 8 o'clock, A. M., the surveyor and his assistants having reported in favor of establishing the centre at the spot where was afterwards built the old meeting house, the town accepted the report, dissolved the meeting, and immediately went to work at felling trees.

This season, James Moore built the first corn mill in town, on North Branch river, on or very near the site of the Wallace mills. This was hailed by the early settlers as a great acquisition. They had thought themselves highly favored by the erection of Lewis' mill, in Francetown, three years earlier; but to have a mill within their own limits, was still better. The road from the Great Bridge, by the Centre and the new corn mill, to Hillsboro', was made passable for horses; and, with some shorter and minor roads, legally laid out and recorded.

July 23d, a company of fifty-two men from Antrim, Deering, Francetown, Lyndeboro' and New-Boston, mustered at the latter place, to join the forces to be led by Stark against Burgoyne. They took part in more or less of the military operations that issued in the capture of the British army. Among the number from Antrim were John Duncan, who served as lieutenant in this expedition, William Smith, and doubtless others. John Smith, the son of William, was one of the number designated to march westward, but the father, on reflection, volunteered to take the place of the son: giving as his reason, that should he himself fall in battle, he trusted he was prepared to meet his Judge in peace; while, should his son go and be killed, he could cherish in relation to him no such hope! A striking instance of paternal and disinterested affection.

In addition to those citizens of Antrim who marched under Stark to aid in the capture of Burgoyne, several others, either before or after this year, entered the military service for a longer or shorter period: as James Dickey, George Bemain, Elias Cheeney, Samuel Dinsmoor, Moses and David George, and probably others. With the exception of Dickey and Bemain, they returned in safety. While these men were absent in the army, the town aided their families; if they were single men, who had left what the old records call "pieces of chopped wood," i. e., tracts of land on which the trees had been felled but not cleared off, the town cut, piled and burnt the wood, preparing the ground for a crop. The early records contain numerous votes in relation to such matters.

The inhabitants found the year 1778 a trying season. The rapid depreciation of the Continental paper currency distressed them severely; there was extreme difficulty in finding silver enough to pay the State taxes. In the year preceding, labor on the highway was put

at three dollars, and ox-work at two dollars per day. The year following 1778, a day's labor on the highway was rated at ten dollars; the town voted the Rev. Mr. Miltimore 70 dollars per Sabbath for supplying the desk. The paper went down, down, till it became scarce an object of valuation. In one instance the Rev. Mr. Barnes, of Hillsboro', paid his whole year's salary for a pig of a month old; but was afterwards indemnified by that town for his loss. A silver dollar was hardly to be found. These embarrassments, in this place, were aggravated by complaints preferred to the Legislature by non-resident proprietors of lands, against some doings of the town. John Duncan and Thomas Nichols were chosen agents, to repair to the seat of government and defend the town against those charges. The complaints probably related to the assessment and collection of taxes on non-resident lands. How the matter ended, the records, being very loose and indefinite, give us no data to determine. Another indication of the pecuniary troubles of the times is seen in the fact that in the next year the town appointed a committee to regulate the prices of all vegetable articles offered for sale; whoever sold for more, was to forfeit the article or its equivalent in money, and the Committee were enjoined to prosecute all violaters of the rule. The attempt, like similar ones in other places, proved a failure; prices of commodities being scarcely more controllable by human legislation than the variations of the wind.

To many of the conveniences and comforts of life, the hardy generation then on the stage were strangers. Their dwellings were log houses, without glass, ill fitted to exclude the cold. Had it not been for the roaring fires kept up in winter in the huge fire places, fed continually by great logs, which they were glad to be rid of, the inmates must have suffered. Wood and timber were so abundant that the faster they could consume them the better. Their farming utensils were clumsy; their clothing homespun and coarse, but durable; the men wore tow shirts, striped woolen frocks, and leather aprons. The best suit of coarse woolen cloth was reserved for Sabbaths and special occasions, and lasted year after year. In winter they wore shoes, excluding the snow by a pair of woolen leggins, fastened over the mouth of the shoe by strings. Boots were rare; great coats and surtouts rarer still. A pair of boots would last a man many years. In summer, neither men nor women wore shoes at home; on the Sabbath, the women often carried their shoes in their hand to save wear, till they came near the meeting-house, when they would put them on. They were clad, when engaged in their work, which was nearly all the time on week days, in a short gown and petticoat of some coarse material, with a striped apron; calicoes being thought quite a dressy article. The household furniture was rude and coarse; carpets, sofas, pianos, were unheard of; instead of them was the spinning wheel, both small and great, and the loom—articles if less ornamental, certainly more indispensable. Tea and coffee were almost unknown; broths of various kinds, corn, bean, barley broth, were in constant use. In many families, hasty-pudding with milk, if milk

could be had, was almost the standing supper. For a lunch in the intermission of public worship on the Sabbath, instances were not wanting of men carrying in their pocket a few cold boiled potatoes, and nothing else. Sometimes, in winter, families were conveyed to meeting through deep snow on an ox sled; in summer, the man, if he were the owner of a horse, rode to meeting with his wife seated on a pillion behind him, and a child seated on a pillow before him; and sometimes another and smaller child in the mother's lap, encircled by one of her arms. A party of the smart young people once assembled at a neighbor's, in early times, for a social interview. The supper—what was it? Not a modern supper of roast turkey and oysters, but *hasty-pudding and milk*! There being but three spoons, one division of three guests sat down to table, then another division and another, till all had been served. All went off well, and it was considered a fashionable, well-managed affair.

That age has well been called "*the age of homespun*." It was an age of hard work and simple fare; interspersed, on the part of the men, with trainings, musters, raisings, huskings, wrestling matches, chopping-bees and piling-bees; and, in the female world, with quiltings, apple-parings and carding-bees. If the rude dwellings were not often animated with the faces of visitants, they were daily enlivened with the buzzing of wheels and the clatter of looms. If the inmates had fewer means of high wrought excitement, they were not destitute of the sources of contentment and tranquil enjoyment.

In the course of this and the preceding year, Jonathan Nesmith, James Nesmith, Benjamin Gregg, Samuel Gregg, William Boyd, Daniel Miltimore, James Carr, Nathan Taylor, James McAlister, Phillip Coffin, and Elias Cheney were added to the number of settlers. The first school kept in town was commenced at the close of this year, taught by one Dinsmoor, at Dea. Aiken's, for one month; consisting of the deacon's children and a few others, twelve in all. Reading, writing, and a little arithmetic, were the only objects of attention; Dilworth's spelling book and the bible being the only reading books. No books on arithmetic, English grammar or geography, were then attainable. In some places, at this date, the children learned to write on birch bark, for lack of paper. Dinsmore taught the same school a second winter. In the intervening summer, that of 1779, as nearly as can be ascertained, the first school-house, a rude and very small framed building, was erected on or near the site of the present school-house in district No. 1, a little south of George Burnham's. The difficulties growing out of the depreciation of the currency still pressing on the people with increasing weight, they at this time petitioned the Legislature for some relief; with what success does not appear. The winter of 1779 and 1780 was one of extreme severity, long after called "*the hard winter*." Storms were frequent and driving, the snow very deep, the cold intense, so that for six weeks water did not drop from the eaves. There was little passing, except on snow-shoes or rackets; fuel was drawn to the houses on hand-sleds; some families, unable to get to mill, were obliged to

dispense with bread and live on boiled corn and broths. May 19, 1780, was the well known *dark day*—the obscuration being so great that many persons lighted candles to see to eat their dinner.

Mr. Samuel Gregg, having given the town a piece of land at the old centre for a common, the remaining trees on the common and adjoining burying-ground were felled this season; each man volunteering a day's labor. The people in the course of the year sent a petition to the Legislature for aid toward building a meeting-house. The labor and expense, without some aid, exceeded their ability; the war having drained the country of specie, and the paper currency being unavailable to make purchases, dishonest men paid their debts in money hardly worth taking, and too many creditors, compelled to receive the trash when legally tendered, were greatly injured, if not absolutely ruined.

Asa Merrill, from Hudson, was killed, 1781, by a fall in Dea. Aiken's mill; this being, it is believed, the first death of an adult that had occurred in the town. The same year, the first bridge, built at the cost of the town, over the North Branch river, was constructed in the present North Branch Village.

We are now come to the date of the first assembling of the Convention which formed the present Constitution of New-Hampshire. A town meeting was holden, June 1, to determine whether they would send a delegate to this important Convention. The action of the town is recorded in the following quaint language: "Voted, that we send no man to Concord." If the vote seem surprising to the present generation, it must be recollected that those who passed it were few and poor, and thought it better to waive their privilege, than incur the expense of compensating the Delegate.

As an interesting memorial of the strength of religious and devotional feelings in the breasts of the early settlers, it may be stated, that by a vote of the town, the 19th of May, this year, was observed as a town fast; it being the first anniversary of the *dark day*.

The appointment of Thomas English, as Collector and Constable for 1782, proved unfortunate for the town. The Legislature having imposed a tax of a penny an acre on wild lands, for the support of the war, and the tax being disregarded by some non-resident proprietors, English sold many lots at low rates for payment of taxes. Some years after, these titles, derived from the Collector, were adjudged to be invalid, through some illegality in his proceedings; and the unfortunate purchasers had to submit, not only to the vexation and cost of lawsuits on writs of ejectment, but in the issue, to pay for their lands a second time. Having collected a considerable portion of the sums assessed in his tax-bill, English absconded with near two hundred dollars of town's money, in silver, in his hands; a loss more severely felt by the people of that day, than would be the loss of ten times the amount by the present citizens.

The news of peace with Great Britain, giving the prospect of relief from the toils, anxieties, and heavy burdens of war, diffused universal joy. The people of Antrim had borne a full share, in proportion

to their number and means, in the sacrifices and sufferings necessary to the attainment of American independence.

In the summer of 1783, Dea. Aiken, who had, by a contract with the town, cleared off, during the preceding year, the fallen timber of the old Common and Burying-ground, reaped the crop in one day, with the aid of his two hired men and three daughters. These daughters, one of whom fired the timber when the land was burnt over, were as active reapers as any in the field, and all became intelligent and respectable women. In that day it was deemed proper and reputable for females to perform, at certain seasons of the year, outdoor work. They reaped, raked hay, pulled and spread flax; in the absence of their husbands, housed and foddered the cattle; milked the cows, fed the swine, and, when occasion required, caught and harnessed the horse. They thought little of walking a few miles to meeting; carrying sometimes a babe in their arms. In addition to all this, they carded, spun, wove, colored, and made up the garments of the family. Surely our good grandmothers and great-grandmothers, many of whom were women of intelligence, high moral principle, and *native*, not *artificial* refinement, were far from eating the bread of idleness.

This year, or about that time, Jeremiah Wier, formerly of Chelmsford, then of Antrim, disappeared in a manner that remains inexplicable. He had served in the army through most of the Revolutionary war; came home on furlough; and peace being declared before the expiration of the furlough, it was not necessary for him to return into the service. Considerable arrears of pay were due him. He removed his family to Antrim, to a place near Hopkins Griffin's, remained with them one winter, and then went in the spring to New-York for his dues. The money being not ready, he let himself to labor there through the summer. In autumn he received the arrears of his soldier's pay and his summer's wages, set out with the money on his return home, but never arrived, and was never more heard of. It was the belief of his relatives, or at least feared by them, that he was followed by some one who knew he had money, and murdered on the way.

In answer to a petition of the inhabitants, the Legislature, in 1783, imposed a tax of a penny an acre, for the three next years, on the lands of non-residents, to aid in building a meeting-house. A large portion of the town was still owned by the Masonian proprietors in Portsmouth; they submitted to the tax with rather an ill grace, but it could not be evaded; it yielded a considerable supply of hard money. Encouraged by this aid, the town voted at the March meeting of 1784 to build, the next year, a meeting-house fifty feet by forty, with a porch at each end, to be modelled on the plan of the west meeting-house in Londonderry; a house endeared to them as the place where they and their fathers had worshipped.

This season, the town of Stoddard, having ascertained that without encroaching on other grants, they could claim a strip of land on their west border, deemed more valuable than the land on the east line of

the town, claimed the land on the west; and in order not to exceed the quantity allowed in their charter, *disclaimed* a strip of land on their old east line. As the charter of Antrim extended its western limit to Stoddard line, the former town voted to tax the land disclaimed by the latter; nor was the claim of Antrim ever contested. The strip was almost a mile wide on the south line of the town, and ran thence to a point at the northwest corner; making an addition, in a triangular form, to the territory of Antrim of about 1200 or 1300 acres.

The winter of 1784-5 was very severe; snows lay deep on the ground till late in April. The wolves at this period were very destructive to the sheep, and even the cattle were in danger from their ferocity. The town voted a bounty of five dollars for killing a wolf, in addition to the bounty paid by the State. The people were often annoyed in the night by their howlings in the woods.

Numerous instances are found in the old records of this period, of persons being warned by the constable to quit the town. When they moved into the place, it was the duty of the selectmen, if they apprehended it might subject the town to expense for their maintenance, to direct the constable to warn them to depart. The notice was served on quite a number of individuals; they might then depart or remain, but if they became a public burden, the towns whence they came were liable for their support.

June 8, 1785, Col. Wm. Gregg, of Londonderry, an officer who had borne a distinguished part in Bennington battle, under Stark, came to town as the master workman in the erection of the meeting-house. The people engaged in the work with spirit. In the brief space of twenty days all the timber was cut and hewed, the slitwork sawed and the framing accomplished. The pine timber was cut on the plain near Mr. Jonathan Carr's; the hard wood timber on Meeting-house Hill. The house was raised June 28, on which occasion the town called in the aid of men from the towns adjacent. As a sample of the usages of the time, it may be stated, that a breakfast was provided for the raisers, of bread, cheese, and dry fish; a dinner of meat. Two barrels of rum were purchased for the use of the workmen; it being scarce needful to be added that the day of the temperance reform had not then come.

So pleased were the people with the idea of having a meeting-house, that on the Sabbath next after the raising of the frame they met in it for worship, having a Mr. Whipple for their preacher. Nothing had been done to the house but to lay down a little loose flooring, to place a few boards on blocks for seats, and a few on the beams as a screen from the sun. In time of service there arose a violent thunder storm, and while the little congregation were fleeing for shelter to Mr. Gregg's, (now Mr. Gates'), the rain poured down copiously, wetting many to the skin. Little was done to the house this season, except to cover the roof.

As the erection of the meeting-house was the work of the town in their corporate capacity, a narrative of the matter seems to belong to

the civil rather than the ecclesiastical portion of this history. In finishing the house they proceeded tardily, doing something each year, but not striking the finishing stroke, and selling the pews, till the expiration of six years. Nor is this strange. At the beginning of the work there were but forty-three families in town, most of them living in log houses; willing-hearted, but in narrow circumstances. There was neither store nor tannery nearer than Amherst. An eye-witness of the state of society at that period, remarks, "Then was a time of brotherly love; each family sat under its own vine, having none to molest; no haughty looks or mincing steps; no jealousy, tale-bearing or envy, known in town; but as population and wealth increased, those evils crept in." The picture is a pleasing one, colored no doubt by the partiality of the witness to scenes of olden time, yet containing no small portion of truthfulness. The simplicity, sincerity, and cordial hospitality of most of the men and women of that day, contrast favorably with the specious, but too often hollow, pretences of modern refinement.

A certain individual, who at the March meeting this year had been elected town-clerk and third selectman, happening to fall under the displeasure of his townsmen, they, at a subsequent town meeting, "*reconsidered*" the choice, and elected other persons to those offices. Whether such a procedure then had the stamp of legality it is not our present business to enquire. The ground of dissatisfaction seems to have been the retention of money in the hands of this person, which the town claimed as belonging to their treasury.

Among the settlers who came in between 1778 and 1785, were Adam Nichols, John McCoy, Samuel and James Dinsmore, William McDole, Hugh Jameson, Nathan Austin, John Gilmore, Reuben Boutell, Alexander Gregg, Adam Dunlap, Lemuel and Stephen Cur-tice, John Stuart, Nathan Taylor, John and William McIlvaine, David McClure, Thomas Day, Isaac Cochran, and James Wallace. Dea. Cochran raised the frame of the first two story dwelling-house in town, now occupied by his grandson, Ira Cochran, precisely two weeks after the raising of the meeting-house. The same season, while Mr. Whipple was performing divine service on the Sabbath at Daniel Miltimore's, the flooring gave way, and both preacher and hearers were precipitated into the cellar. All were frightened; a few were bruised; but no bones broken.

The first grant of school money by the town was in 1786, amounting to fifty dollars. The little school house first erected having become rickety and too small to accommodate the increasing number of scholars, another and larger house was built this year in a more central location, designed for the use of the whole eastern section of the town, on the north side of the road from Mr. Raymond's to Mr. Cochran's, near the brook a little east of Raymond's house. It was constructed of logs.

Great discontent at this time existed in the public mind, arising from the scarcity of specie, and the difficulty of paying debts and taxes. There was a popular clamor for an emission of paper currency

by the State, to be lent to individuals on landed security, and to be made a legal tender to creditors. Warned by past experience of the disastrous effects of the old Continental currency, the wiser part of the people maintained that a new emission would depreciate; that the relief would be but temporary, to be followed by yet severer embarrassments; that industry, frugality, and patience were the true and only remedies. The town of Antrim showed their good sense by instructing their representative to oppose the emission. The opposition to the measure was successful.

This year the body of the meeting-house was inclosed by rough boarding, and the under flooring laid. In these operations, James Dinsmoor, an active and promising young man, was killed by a fall from the staging. Prior to this date, the people had attended public worship, when they could obtain a preacher, in private houses, sometimes in barns. Henceforth, they usually worshipped in the meeting-house; rude and unfinished as it was, it gave them comfortable accommodations in the warm season. As they were unable to supply the desk but a part of each year, they were careful to secure the supply in summer. For a number of following years there was little preaching in town in winter.

In 1786, occurred a singular circumstance at the funeral of a child of Hugh Jameson, in the north-east part of the town. The funeral procession, on their way to the centre burying ground, had entered a small piece of woods south of Mr. McCoy's, when a furious wind met them; trees began to fall; the bearers, on foot, ran forward with the corpse to Dea. Cochran's; while the mourners, on horseback, fled back to Mr. McCoy's for refuge. When the tempest was over, the two parties reunited and buried the child. The same blow, from the south-west, prostrated much of the timber in the valley a little east of Mr. E. L. Vose's.

At what precise time Antrim began to be represented in the Legislature, has not been ascertained. No doubt, very soon after the incorporation, it was attached to a Representative District, formed by classing together several adjacent towns; no town in the immediate vicinity having a sufficient population to entitle it to a representative of its own. The district was represented by John Duncan, Esq., in 1787; perhaps for a few preceding years also; certainly for several succeeding years, till 1797, when he was elected Senator. The town records fail to elucidate this part of our history. As the respective towns attained to a population sufficient to entitle them to a representative, they were detached from the district, and a new district organized of such places as could be well classed together; the classification being occasionally changed to correspond with the state of population. The district, in 1791, was composed of Antrim, Deering, and Hancock. Afterwards Antrim was classed with Windsor; but was able to return, in 1798, a sufficient number of polls to entitle it to a representative of its own.

Of the organization of the Presbyterian church, 1788, at the request of the town in legal town meeting—the only church existing

here for a period of thirty-nine years—the details will be given in the chapter of ecclesiastical history. Of the original members, about sixty in number, the last survivor, Widow Abigail Moor, daughter of John Duncan, Esq., died 1848, at an advanced age.

For many years the people procured the few goods they were able to buy, at Londonderry and Amherst. At length a store was opened at New Boston, and another, somewhat later, at Francetown, by Hon. Peter Woodbury. There being but little competition in trade, large profits were realized by the traders of that day. The first store in Antrim was opened, it is believed, 1789, perhaps a year or two sooner, by Ebenezer Kimball, in a building which once stood on or near the site of the dwelling house of the late George Duncan, Esq. Mr. Kimball afterwards removed to Hill, where he transacted a large business, and died several years ago.

The census of 1790 gave Antrim a population of 528; the number of families was about 90, having been doubled during the preceding five years. This is a greater ratio of increase than is given by any subsequent period in our annals. Next year the meeting-house was entirely finished, by the construction of the gallery pews, and the pews on both floors were sold. The prices of the gallery pews ranged from seventeen to twenty-five dollars; of the pews on the lower floor, from twenty-two to forty dollars.

It may amuse the present generation to learn that in 1793 the town chose three persons, (men who sat in the meeting-house near the doors,) to be *dog-pelters*; their office being to cane the dogs which presumed to enter the house. The records of a few subsequent years exhibit votes "continuing the old dog-pelters." It is questionable whether they did not create more disturbance than they prevented.

In those days it was customary for the town to elect, at the March meeting, a chorister, or leader of the church music. Arthur Nesmith was elected to this office in 1794, and annually reelected for a period of twenty years. He had probably officiated in the office, without a formal choice, some years previous to the first recorded election.

What was long called *the great frost* occurred June 17, 1794. On water standing in tubs in the open air, ice was formed an inch thick. The fruit chiefly perished.

The first store in the north part of the town was opened not far from 1790, by James Wallace, on the Stacy farm, who sold a few goods for some years. Another store was opened in 1796, by Jacob Tuttle, Esq., from Littleton, Mass., who transacted a large business, not only with his townsmen, but with citizens of Hillsborough, Windsor, and the east part of Stoddard. In those days the traders purchased and drove to market the fat cattle; they bought up the farm produce also of the citizens in general, with the exception of some of the largest farmers, who had so much produce to dispose of as made it an object to transport it to market themselves. The markets then resorted to were Boston and Salem. Mr. Tuttle's store was kept for many years in a small building now connected with the dwelling house of James M. Tuttle.

The question of a turnpike road from Cornish to Amherst being before the public in 1799, and proposed to the consideration of the towns through which it was to pass, the town of Antrim voted that they had no objection to its construction.

The census of 1800 showed a population of 1059; the number of inhabitants having been doubled in the preceding ten years. This period was marked by a happy progress in relation to buildings, fences, roads, cultivation, and the increase of the comforts of life. Nearly all the log houses of former days gave place to more commodious framed buildings. The rude household furniture of the first settlers began to be succeeded by articles more convenient and ornamental. The bean porridge, the hasty-pudding, the brown bread and milk, the staple articles of former diet, yielded the field, quite generally, to tea and coffee. The era, however, of chaises and pleasure waggons, of carpets and sofas, did not arrive till almost a quarter of a century later.

A malignant dysentery, in the summer of 1800, made the town a scene of distress and mourning. From July 23d, to Sept. 23d, occurred sixty-five deaths—all, save three, of the epidemic—the greater part children; an average of more than one death per day for two months. Most of the people were clad in mourning, and a few families buried all their children. The season being dry and hot, the physical as well as mental sufferings of the people were great. The whole number of deaths during the year was 69, about one fifteenth part of the entire population. In Hancock the disease raged with an almost equal violence. It was during the prevalence of this epidemic, that the Rev. Walter Little, the first settled minister, was ordained. There was not perfect unanimity of feeling in the invitation from the town; but such was their distress at the time, and so urgent their need of the services of a minister, that those who felt some objections to the ordination, forebore to press them, and there was no visible opposition.

The opening of the present century, in 1801, disclosed a decisive change of political opinion in the town. Before this date, a large majority of the citizens had sustained the nominations of the Federal party; but some unpopular measures of the Federal administration of John Adams, together with the success of the Republicans in the election of Jefferson to the Presidency, suddenly turned the scale. At the March meeting, quite a majority of the citizens were found arrayed with the Democratic party; a change was made of most of the incumbents of town offices; Jacob Tuttle, the Democratic candidate, was elected representative, and annually reelected for many succeeding years. Ever since, by large and decisive majorities, has the Democratic party retained the ascendancy in this place.

About this time the second New-Hampshire turnpike, from Cornish to Amherst, passing through the north-east portion of the town, was completed, and a line of stages put on it; the first that visited Antrim. For near thirty years, a vast amount of travel from Canada, Vermont, and western New-Hampshire, passed over this road to

Boston; great quantities of merchandise were transported on it. It was not very judiciously located, passing over too many hard hills for the accommodation of persons who aided in its construction. The tolls were high and burdensome to the travelling public; at the same time, the benefits derived from it were undeniable. A large, three-story tavern house was built on the road in Antrim, by Wm. Barnes, from Hillsboro'; it was occupied by different inn-keepers, and was a place of public resort for many years, till it was burnt, and a two-story brick house, now Elijah Gould's, took its place. As other and easier roads to market were constructed, the travel on the old turn-pike diminished; some years ago the gates were taken down, and the road became free, being relinquished by the corporation and left to the care of the respective towns through which it passed.

Oct. 4th, 1804, is the date of the dismissal, at his own request, by the Presbytery of Londonderry, of Rev. Walter Fullerton; (his name having been changed from Little to Fullerton, by act of the Legislature.) Happily the event excited no division among the people, as it accorded with their wishes. Mr. Fullerton possessed respectable talents, but his manners were not the most conciliatory, and he hence became unpopular.

A snow storm of remarkable severity happened this year, Oct. 7, and covered the earth to the depth of almost a foot. The greater part of the potatoes and apples were buried under the snow. In the open fields it gradually melted and disappeared, but in some cold spots, secluded from the sun, the drifts lay till the next spring.

The particulars of the ordination, in 1808, as the town's minister, of the writer of this sketch, and the present Pastor of the Presbyterian Church, will be given in another place. Ministers were then considered as settled for life, unless some special reason should require a dissolution of the relation. Ordinations were then rare occurrences, and drew from neighboring towns crowds of people. It was customary for the people of the place to provide for the gratuitous entertainment of all the strangers in attendance, however numerous. On this occasion the people of Antrim displayed a hospitality almost unbounded; making a provision far exceeding the demands of the guests, though hundreds of strangers were in town. Times are since changed.

Near the close of the year, John Moor, a respectable citizen, was mortally wounded in the woods by the fall of a limb of a tree, which fractured the skull.

Jan. 19th, 1810, is memorable for severity of cold, rendered almost intolerable by a driving wind, and was long referred to as the *cold Friday*; the two succeeding days were memorably cold. No snow was on the ground, and none fell till about the 20th of February. On the cold Friday, several persons in New-Hampshire perished. The population of the town by the census of this year was 1277; giving an increase of about twenty per cent for the preceding ten years. The summer following, an unusual number of children died, some of dysentery, and some of whooping cough.

The winter of 1811-12 was rigorous, and its snow-falls numerous and heavy. William McClary was frozen to death, on the evening of Christmas, 1811, and found dead next day by a great rock. In January, 1812, the dwelling house of Hon. John Duncan was burnt in the day time. He was alone in the house, reading, and the flames had made such progress before he discovered them, that he barely escaped. The citizens contributed generously to repair his losses.

This year, Feb. 7, that singular and fatal epidemic, the spotted fever, appeared in Antrim, and spread with such rapidity that in the course of two months there were two hundred cases and forty deaths. Many cases were mild; others very malignant, terminating in death sometimes in a single day; the victims being of all ages from five to sixty years. No persons over sixty were attacked. One of the victims was Daniel Nichols, Esq., one of the most respectable citizens of the town. The physicians were at first at a loss as to the proper treatment; there was a popular impression that warm steam and copious sweating were essential parts of the curative process. To such an extreme, in the alarm of the time, was this treatment carried by steam and hot blocks of wood, that some sufferers were doubtless hurried to the grave by well-meant, but ill-judged efforts for their relief. Families in health at bed-time, dared not retire to rest without all the preparations in their power to commence the sweating process, should the disease attack them in the night. Experience soon dispelled this illusion, and introduced a more rational treatment. It was often difficult to find well persons enough to minister to the sick, and break roads through the deep snows for the burial of the dead. There were instances of three funerals in a day, one instance of four; the dead being brought to the meeting-house, March 26, for the funeral service, at an appointed hour. The late Gov. Pierce once remarked that he passed through the town in this time of distress at the midnight hour, and saw lights gleaming from many of the houses; making on his mind an impression not pleasant and cheerful, but sad and gloomy, as an indication of sickness and anxiety, if not of death, within!

The declaration of war against Great Britain, in June, was approved and sustained by a large majority of the citizens of the town. James Aiken, Jun., Jonathan Hayward, John Witherspoon, Theodore Wallace, James Day, Robert Holmes, Moses P. Wier, and Swallow Wilson, enlisted into a United States regiment of regulars, and served on the Canadian frontier. The following persons joined a regiment of volunteers commanded by Col. McCobb, of Maine: Daniel Gregg, Lieutenant; Dexter Fairbanks, Serjeant; James Brown, Musician; Charles Gates, Ziba Curtice, John Stuart, Joseph White, Charles Fairbanks, John Boyd, Silas Rhodes, privates. At the expiration of their one year's service as volunteers, Lieut. Gregg, Fairbanks, Brown, Stuart and White, enlisted into the regular service, in which Gregg was promoted to a captaincy. No one of the number was killed in battle. Hayward, after receiving his discharge, set out on his return home, and was never more heard of. Witherspoon

adjacent pine lands in Bennington. Seventy years ago these lands were thought to be of very trifling value; the late Mark Woodbury, Esq., bought some hundred acres, about 1800, for almost a song; they might have been purchased in 1808 for five dollars per acre; at the present time, if well timbered with full grown pines, they would command per acre from \$100 to \$200. The stock of timber is fast being exhausted.

Hyde & Breed commenced the manufacture of cassimeres and other woollens, near the lower end of South Village, 1841, and prosecuted the business in company five years. Breed continued it three years longer. This factory has been burnt. Hyde erected two other woolen factories in the village, higher up the Great Brook; the upper one was operative for a brief period only, but now stands unoccupied; the middle one never went into operation, but has been removed a few rods and applied to other uses.

White & Eaton introduced the manufacture of powder-kegs, 1843, and prosecuted it not quite two years. The business was transferred by them to Moore & Stearns; by the last named persons to J. S. Burnham, who relinquished it, 1850. The shop has passed into the hands of J. E. Temple, who uses it for the manufacture of furniture, including looking-glass frames. White & Eaton commenced the manufacture of cast-steel hoes, 1845, in a new location, and have done a business amounting, for the last four years, to ten or twelve thousand dollars annually. For three years they have manufactured a patented hoe of improved construction, called the "premium cast-steel concave hoe," which has been introduced extensively and highly approved. They employ many hands. They are also the patentees of a hay-cutter, of ingenious construction and approved efficiency.

Imla Wright erected, 1845, another cotton factory on a small scale, in Clinton Village, where he manufactures cotton yarn, twine, and batting. Hill & Fletcher built, 1848, in the same village, a factory, now owned by John Johnson, Jun., and used for the manufacture of chairs and powder kegs. S. C. & J. L. Kendall have lately put in operation, below Clinton Village, a manufactory of doors, window-sashes, and window-blinds, and where is done every kind of joiner's work.

Little manufacturing business was done at the Branch Village till 1839, when Clark & Buss began the manufacture of bobbins. The business was continued by Isaac Boyd, and afterwards by A. Putnam, —about six years in all. Dunkley & Co. commenced, 1849, the manufacture of raw imported silk—subjecting it to the successive operations of winding, spinning, doubling and twisting, cleansing, coloring, and packing,—to an amount exceeding \$5,000 annually. Isaac C. Tuttle introduced the manufacture of shoe-pegs in large quantities, 1850; has recently sold out. The next year S. W. & J. G. Flint began and still continue the same manufacture.

To return to chronological order and resume the broken thread of narration: The controversy relative to meeting-houses led to an effort, in 1828, by citizens in certain sections of Antrim, Deering, and

Society Land, to procure the incorporation of a new town, to be composed of the eastern part of Antrim, the western part of Deering, and Society Land. The town of Antrim voted to oppose the petition for a division, and chose Isaac Baldwin their agent for this purpose, with authority to employ counsel and take all proper steps to render their opposition effective. At the next session of the Legislature the committee on the incorporation of towns reported adversely to the petitioners for a division, and they had leave to withdraw their petition.

Not discouraged by a single failure, they renewed the effort in 1829, and obtained on petition the appointment by the Legislature of a viewing committee, of three persons, to visit the place, hear the respective parties, and report on the expediency of creating a new town. The committee, of which C. F. Gove, of Nashville, was chairman, came here on this business, May, 1830. Antrim and Society Land, by special agents, and Deering by their selectmen, opposed the granting of the petition. After viewing the location, examining witnesses, and hearing counsel, the committee reported in favor of the creation of a new town; but, at the June session, the House of Representatives, by a great majority, decided adversely to the report. No effort for a division has been made since this period, and these unpleasant agitations gradually subsided.

That portion of the road from Stoddard to Hancock, passing through the southwest corner of Antrim, a rough, uninhabited tract, on the west side of Bald Mountain, had been for many years kept in tolerable repair by this town, at no small expense, and not without some complainings; as the citizens scarce ever used the road, and had no access to it except by passing through other towns. Gladly would they have rid themselves of that angle of the town, but no neighboring town would accept it. At this period, the *Forest Road*, passing from Charlestown, N. H., through Stoddard, Hancock, and Greenfield, toward Nashua, attracted public attention—constructed in many places on new ground, and designed as a new avenue to market. Thoroughly to repair the portion of it lying in this uninhabited corner of Antrim, subjected the town to a heavy expenditure, which, however unpalatable, must be submitted to. A line of stages soon ran over this road. About the same time another market road was constructed from Newport to Amherst. These two roads attracted from the old turnpike a large portion of the travel, which had rendered it for many past years a busy and lively thoroughfare.

A Court's committee laid out, 1831, what was called the new *Keene Road*, from Hillsborough Bridge by the Branch Village to Stoddard line, and thence, by the Box tavern and North Nelson, to Keene. The town of Antrim made all possible opposition to this road, but were at last compelled to construct the portion of it within their limits, at the expense of not less than \$4,000. About the same time another Court's committee laid out a new road, a part of the way on new ground, from Hillsborough Bridge by the South Village to Hancock Factory Village; the cost of which, to the town of Antrim, was not far from \$2,000. Both roads were built, 1834.

From 1826 to 1832, the old meeting-house had stood unoccupied, except as a place for town-meetings. In accordance with a vote of the town, it was taken down the latter year, reduced in its dimensions, and reconstructed into the present town-house. The contractor for the removal and reconstruction was Charles Gates. Its location was fixed by a disinterested committee from abroad, consisting of Solomon McNeil, of Hillsboro', Russell Tubbs, of Deering, and Thatcher Bradford, of Hancock, Esquires.

Prior to 1836, the salary of the minister had been granted by the town in its corporate capacity; assessed and collected by the proper town officers. This year the town ceased to act as a religious organization, and the support of a Presbyterian minister was assumed by a society, not incorporated, yet effective to accomplish the object on the pure voluntary principle. So long as the town, as a corporation, sustained the ministry of the Gospel, it is believed that in no instance, where persons protested against paying a minister's tax, or declined to pay, was the payment ever enforced; at least no such instance is known to the writer. The thing was done under the forms of law: it was, nevertheless, in the proper sense, a *free-will offering*.

At this period town taxes were, and had been for two or three preceding years, excessively high. Two expensive roads and several minor roads had been built, a town farm for the support of the poor had been purchased, at a cost, including repairs and stock, well nigh \$2,500. The amount of town indebtedness was at one time about \$9,000. The citizens did not attempt to liquidate the debt at once, but resorted to a gradual process of extrication; a thing easily done, as on the credit of the town, money could be easily borrowed. Fortunately, the distribution of the surplus revenues of the United States, on deposit with the respective States, came to the aid of Antrim in a time of need. From the sum deposited with New-Hampshire, the town, by its agent, Samuel Fletcher, Esq., received, in 1837, as its proportionate share, about \$3,000 on deposit. There being no apprehension that the deposit would ever be reclaimed, it was applied to the payment of town debts; an important relief to the burdened tax-payers, which helped them "to see their way out of the swamp."

Early in 1840, the existence of small pox in an adjoining town created alarm here, and led to the call of a special town-meeting, for the adoption of preventives to the spread of the infection. The town appointed the physicians, Doctors Stickney and Burnham, agents to vaccinate, at the expense of the town, all the inhabitants who should apply to them. As the alarm subsided, the work of vaccination soon languished, and the results of the meeting were unimportant.

The formation of one town after another, out of the large tract constituting the original *Society Land*, as it was prior to 1772, has been noticed in preceding pages. After the incorporation of Antrim and Hancock, all that retained the name of Society Land lay on the east side of the Contoocook. A large slice was separated from it in 1791 to aid in forming Greenfield, of which town it constitutes the

western section. The remaining Society Land, inhabited in 1830 by about twenty-five or thirty families, retained the ancient name till 1842, when, together with some contiguous portions of Hancock, Greenfield, Francestown and Deering, it was formed into the present town of Bennington. The old name of Society Land is now extinct; the territory to which it was applied in early times forms six towns, or parts of towns; contains between five and six thousand inhabitants, and ranks high among the flourishing agricultural districts of New-Hampshire.

In compliance with a town vote, the whole territory of the township was divided by the selectmen, 1843, by metes and bounds, into thirteen school districts, very nearly as now constituted.

As an index of the sentiments of the people of Antrim, 1844, on some subjects then attracting public attention, it may interest the next generation to know that on the question of the abolition of capital punishment, the votes in town-meeting were, yeas 27; nays, 175. On the question of the revision of the Constitution of New-Hampshire, yeas 23; nays, 137.

The year last named brings us to the close of our proposed historical period, one century from the first settlement. It is hoped some one will be found, at the end of another century, to take up the broken thread of the narrative, and detail the events and changes of another hundred years! What they will be is known only to the Omniscient. May the year 1944 find Antrim inhabited by an industrious, well educated, christian population; fearing God, honoring religion, seeking truth and righteousness. Long ere that day comes, time will have leveled the graves and obliterated the memory of the present actors on the stage of life!

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY OF ANTRIM,

FROM 1744 TO 1844.

THE fact that for almost sixty years the town acted both as a *civil* and *ecclesiastical* corporation, occasions in the early records a remarkable blending of the two departments, and renders now and then a repetition necessary, to preserve the connection of the series of events. The reader must pardon it as unavoidable.

From the settlement of the place, almost to the close of the last century, the town was destitute of a stated ministry; not from the want of anxious desire and effort to obtain a pastor, but from obstacles to the attainment of their wishes. During Riley's first residence here, his fifteen years' absence, and the first fourteen years of his second residence, it is not known that there was a religious meeting holden in town. In 1772, the Rev. Mr. Barnes, the first minister who was settled in any adjoining town, was ordained in Hillsboro'. For many succeeding years, the people of Antrim, when destitute of a supply, applied to him to solemnize marriages and attend funerals. He performed here, cheerfully and gratuitously, many fatiguing services, which merited and received the gratitude of the people.

As stated in another place, the first sermon preached in Antrim was in Sept., 1775, by Rev. Mr. Davidson, of Derry, in Dea. Aiken's barn; and, in a few weeks after, the Rev. Mr. McGregor, of Londonderry, preached a sermon in Francestown, in the barn of Dea. Hopkins, who lived on the well-known Gibson place. To this meeting several children were carried from Antrim for baptism. In the two or three following years a sermon was preached here occasionally, and gratuitously, by clergymen in the county; as the Rev. Messrs. Morrison, of Peterboro', Goodridge of Lyndeboro', Heuston, of Bedford, Moor, of New-Boston, and Barnes, of Hillsboro'.

The year after the incorporation, the town granted thirty-two dollars, to which they made, at a subsequent town-meeting, an addition, to obtain preaching; a liberal grant for a community so small and poor. They obtained the services of Mr. Aaron Hutchinson, then a candidate for the ministry, afterwards an attorney at Lebanon, N. H.,

and of the Rev. Mr. Clarke, a native of Ireland, each a few Sabbaths. Mr. Clarke was a learned and good man, but full of eccentricities and oddities. In 1779 they voted to procure eight Sabbaths' preaching, and obtained the services of Mr. James Miltimore, afterwards minister of Stratham, N. H., and Newbury, Mass. Mr. Miltimore was again engaged here for some Sabbaths in 1780, when the people gave him a unanimous invitation to become their pastor, offering him a lot of land as a "settlement," and an annual salary of \$233. This was a truly liberal offer for so small a people. For reasons not appearing on the town records, Mr. Miltimore declined an acceptance; but preached in town some Sabbaths in each of the years 1781, 1782, 1783. He was a worthy man, and possessed in a high degree the confidence of the people. The reasons of his declining the invitation are supposed to have been, that the Portsmouth proprietors were not inclined to give the town a lot of land for the first settled minister; an impression on his part that his support might overburden his friends, and that he might be more useful in a larger field.

In 1782, Daniel Nichols was chosen by the town "to read the Psalm." This vote may refer to religious meetings when no minister was present, and lends probability to the inference that the early settlers sometimes held meetings for prayer, singing, and reading sermons, when they had no ministerial aid.

Rev. Mr. Whipple preached here a few Sabbaths in 1785, and it was then that, at a meeting at Mr. Miltimore's, the flooring gave way and precipitated the assembly into the cellar. Up to this date, the religious as well as the town-meetings had been holden in private dwellings and barns.

As the transactions in relation to the building of the first meeting-house, 1785, were matters of *town* business, the details have been already given in the civil history of the place.

From this period, onward, for six or seven years, the annual grants by the town for the supply of the desk were from fifty to eighty dollars. It was the day of small things; seed was however being sown, destined to yield much fruit afterwards. In 1786-7, the Rev. Aaron Hutchinson, father of the aforementioned Aaron Hutchinson, formerly minister of Grafton, Mass., preached here a part of each summer: a man of many singularities, but possessing a memory surprisingly retentive. It has been said that were the Greek Testament lost, he could have restored it from memory, word for word; doubtless an exaggeration; but that he was in a remarkable degree familiar with the Greek, cannot be questioned.

Though many of the first settlers and their wives were persons of piety, they had hitherto retained their relation to the churches with which they had originally united; attending sacramental seasons in those places when it was practicable, and often carrying their children thither for baptism. They, with a considerable number of new communicants, were organized into a church, 1788, consisting of about sixty members. It is singular that the preliminary steps toward this important transaction were taken by the town in legal meeting. They

appointed Isaac Cochran their agent, to apply to the Presbytery of Londonderry to authorize a minister to visit Antrim, and organize a church. They designated to this service the Rev. Wm. Morrison, of Londonderry, who preached here August 3; organized the Presbyterian church, and ordained a board of elders elected by the church and congregation; viz: Deacons James Aiken, Isaac Cochran, and Jonathan Nesmith. He came a second time the same month and administered, Aug. 24, for the first time in Antrim, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Mr. Morrison, afterwards D. D., repeated for many succeeding years, at the request of the people, his annual visits for the administration of christian ordinances; was holden by them in the highest respect, and, indeed, regarded by them as their spiritual father. He was a native of Scotland; educated for the ministry in Pennsylvania; a man of ready talent, winning manners, and excellent reputation; one of the most popular and useful ministers of that day, in New-Hampshire. He died, 1818.

The original members of the church, being chiefly of Scottish descent, educated in the Presbyterian faith and discipline, were strongly attached to the principles and usages of their fathers, and placed themselves from the very first under the care of the Presbytery of Londonderry. No other ecclesiastical connection would have been equally acceptable; it was a connection which has subsisted ever since. They, however, maintained a most fraternal intercourse with all the neighboring churches, freely uniting with them in all acts of christian fellowship. Between Antrim and Londonderry there was for many years a great deal of intercourse, *social* as well as religious; numerous ligaments of consanguinity connected them. If, through lapse of time and change of circumstances, the mother and daughter are now partially estranged, it is only one of those mutations to which earth is subject.

The sacramental services of the church in Antrim were modeled after those of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. They had a sacramental season annually at least; semi-annually if practicable. The Thursday or Friday preceding the Sabbath was observed as a Fast, there being two public services, and no servile labor being allowed. There were also public religious services on Saturday afternoon and Monday forenoon; the latter being the usual time for the baptism of children. At the preparatory Fast, *tokens*, small pieces of lead stamped with the letter A, were distributed among the communicants, as an indication of their right of access to the table: a practice borrowed from the church of Scotland, and continued by the force of custom long after the original and sufficient reason for its introduction had ceased to exist. When receiving the sacramental elements, the communicants sat at long tables, covered with white linen, and extended through the aisles; the tables were sometimes filled with guests three or four times successively; the whole service being interspersed with singing, prayers, and exhortations. These were seasons of deep interest, drew crowded congregations, and were often productive of the most salutary religious impressions. Some,

who came merely to look on, went away thoughtful and serious. This was the course of things almost to the time of leaving the first meeting-house. When the present church was built, 1826, the construction was such as to render the use of tables, extended through the aisles, inconvenient; and for this reason they were laid aside. The *tokens* and the Monday service had been discontinued two or three years earlier. For almost forty years from its organization, the Presbyterian was the only church existing in town.

Reference to the *tokens* formerly used in Presbyterian churches may lead to the inquiry, What was the origin of this usage? It was this: during the progress of the reformation from Popery, in Scotland, three centuries ago, Presbyterian ministers and churches were few and far between, intermingled with a great mass of Romanists. To enjoy sacramental communion, many Protestants must travel great distances; a Scottish sacrament brought together crowds of strangers. To prevent the intrusion of improper persons, *tokens* were introduced as a substitute for written certificates of membership in the church. A stranger might apply to some minister or elder, who could vouch for his christian character and standing, and receive a *token*, which at the proper time he produced as an evidence of his right of access to the Lord's table. In the state of society then existing, the usage was proper and almost indispensable; after the Reformation had become established, the power of custom continued the practice, long after the necessity for it had ceased.

From 1788 to 1791, inclusive, it is not ascertained what clergymen preached in Antrim, except that in one of these years the Rev. Mr. Clark, afterwards of Greenfield, supplied the desk for a time; a man so exemplary, that his host gave him the just and high commendation of being an "every day preacher." During this period, probably, a Mr. Carpenter preached here for some weeks. In 1792, the services of Rev. Mr. Tomb were obtained, and the town gave him an invitation to become their minister; offering him a settlement of \$266 $\frac{2}{3}$, and an annual salary of \$233 $\frac{1}{3}$, to be afterwards increased to \$266 $\frac{2}{3}$. He returned a negative, and left the town for a time; the desk being supplied after his departure, for a few Sabbaths, by a Mr. Noble. In 1793 Mr. Tomb was requested to return, and the town renewed their invitation to him to settle here as their pastor. To their great disappointment he again declined. Mr. Tomb was a man of handsome talents and respectable character, and was afterwards settled in the ministry at Salem, N. Y., where he remained till his death, extensively known and valued.

Of the supplies of the desk in 1794-5 no record remains. A Mr. Duff preached here it is believed in the summer of 1796. Rev. David Goodall, afterwards of Lyttleton, supplied the desk in the latter part of 1796 and the former part of 1797. A meeting was called the latter year to invite him to become the town's minister; but a vote to this effect was not obtained. Whether the people were not united, or whether it had been ascertained that Mr. Goodall did not incline to remain, is not now known. He was a man of great moral

excellence, useful as a minister, a missionary and a legislator. His missionary labors were attended with some incidents of thrilling interest; but this is not the place to tell the story.

In the five or six preceding years, the annual appropriation by the town for the supply of the desk had been gradually increased from eighty to two hundred dollars; corresponding with the growth of the place. Rev. Mr. Howard preached here in the summer of 1798, and the town voted to give him an invitation to settle with them in the ministry. At a subsequent meeting, an article in the warrant to fix on the sum to be offered him as a salary was dismissed. It is not known whether this was meant by the town as a withdrawal of the call, or whether Mr. Howard declined to receive proposals. He afterwards became the minister of Dunstable, Mass.

Mr. Walter Little, a native of Peterboro', and a graduate of Dartmouth College, was employed here, 1799, as a candidate for settlement. Aug. 15, the church and town acting in concert, invited him to take the pastoral charge, offering an annual salary of \$300, to which \$20 more were afterwards added. He was not ordained till Sept. 3, 1800; on which occasion the Rev. Dr. Morrison, of Londonderry, preached the sermon; the Rev. Mr. Taggart, of Colrain, Mass., offered the ordaining prayer; and the Rev. Dr. Dana, of Newburyport, gave the right hand of fellowship. At that time the dysentery was raging, and the town was in affliction. During the twelve years from the organization of the church to the ordination of Mr. Little, forty-five had been admitted to membership; these, added to the original number, with some deduction for deaths and removals, would make the number of members at this period about ninety.

In addition to the existing session, the congregation elected, Sept. 25, as Ruling Elders and Deacons, John Duncan, Joseph Boyd, Daniel Nichols, James Nesmith, Arthur Nesmith, James Carr, Sutherland Weston, Barachias Holt, and John Alexander, who were duly ordained, Oct. 17; making in all a church session of twelve members, exclusive of the pastor; all of whom are since deceased. Though the Presbyterian form of church government recognizes a distinction between the offices of elder and deacon, and though some churches have a board of elders, and a distinct board of deacons, yet it has been the usage of this, and other Presbyterian churches in this State, to consider the same men as holding *both* offices, as being both elders and deacons.

Considerable religious interest existed in the first year of Mr. Little's ministry, resulting in the addition to the church of thirty-six persons. In the three succeeding years thirty-one more were added. For some reason he obtained an act of the Legislature changing his name to *Fullerton*. He possessed respectable talents, but, to a portion of the people, his manners were unacceptable; dissatisfaction arose and increased. Finding his situation becoming unpleasant, he applied to the Presbytery, Sept. 4, 1804, for leave to resign his charge. The people, having been duly notified of his request, instructed the elder who represented them in Presbytery, to offer no objection; and

that body, at a special meeting, Oct. 4, dissolved his relation to his people. He was re-settled at Hebron, N. Y., and in a few years again dismissed. His death occurred on a journey, many years since, in the State of Maryland. It was during the brief ministry of Mr. Fullerton that some infidel publications, as Paine's *Age of Reason*, and other kindred works, found their way here, and infected a few persons with the moral poison; whose unceasing efforts proselyted a few of the young to infidelity. It proved a root bearing gall and wormwood, the effects in relation to its votaries being, in most instances, profanity and intemperance, sometimes gambling and recklessness; in two or three instances premature death. The great mass of the people, however, adhered steadfastly to the faith of their fathers.

Mr. Thomas Cochran, a candidate for the ministry, supplied the desk some part of 1805, and received from the town, in May, a call to become their stated minister. He declined the invitation, and was afterwards the pastor of a church in Camden, Maine. This year the session voted to admit persons of sober life and conversation, who had been themselves baptized, though not members of the church in full communion, to the privilege of bringing their children to baptism; a considerable number availed themselves of the permission. In some portions of New-England this practice prevailed to some extent, and was called, in the language of the times, "the half-way practice," or, "owning the covenant." It was in use here but five years, when, on general conviction of its impropriety, it was given up.

Nov., 1806, Mr. Wm. Ritchie, from Peterboro', having supplied the desk for a time, was invited by vote of the church and congregation in legal town-meeting, to assume the pastoral charge. He declined, and was soon after ordained at Canton, Mass.

The present pastor of the Presbyterian church came here to supply the desk, July 11th, 1807; remained with the people, that season, three months; and received in September an invitation to become the town's minister, which he at that time declined. The call being renewed, May, 1808, he returned in June, and was ordained as pastor, Sept. 28, by the Presbytery of Londonderry. Rev. Dr. Austin, of Worcester, Mass., preached the sermon; Rev. Dr. Morrison, of Londonderry, gave the charge; and Rev. E. P. Bradford, of New-Boston, the right hand of fellowship. The church then consisted of about 125 resident members, only eight or nine having been added during the preceding four years.

From 1808 to the close of 1812, thirty-four persons were admitted into the church. The melancholy scenes of the spotted fever, in the latter year, were not productive, in this place, of that deep moral impression which might have been anticipated. They had, indeed, a salutary influence on some minds, and twelve persons in that year professed the religion of Christ. It is remarkable that in the neighboring town of Frankestown, these scenes made a deeper impression than in the locality of their occurrence; there being in that town a general and powerful revival of religion, many of the subjects of the work referring to the ravages of death they had heard of in Antrim,

as the first thing that aroused them to serious reflection. The years 1813 and '14 were years of religious declension. The events of the war engrossed the public attention. Six were added to the church in the former year; but in the latter, *not one*.

A day more favorable dawned, 1815, in which year thirteen individuals united with the church. In July, 1816, some of the former elders having deceased, removed, or become enfeebled by age, the church elected Samuel Vose, Josiah Duncan, John Taylor, Epps Burnham, and Tristram Sawyer, to be elders, all of whom accepted and were ordained. Soon after this event an increase of religious interest became quite visible; extended itself, without special efforts, silently and gradually, from one neighborhood to another, continued two years and a little more, in which period more than fifty were added to the church. It was like a copious, refreshing morning dew.

In the three years, 1819, 1820, 1821, the church received into its fellowship twenty-eight persons. The five succeeding years, beginning with 1822, exhibit a less favorable aspect of religious feeling, giving a total number of admissions of only fifteen. In 1825, there was not a single admission. The agitations and divisions then existing in relation to the location of a meeting-house were adverse to spiritual prosperity. This year, Amos Parmenter, John Bell, Robert Duncan, and Robert Steele were added to the session. James Wallace, Jun., now a resident of Manchester, was elected with them to the office of an elder, but declined to accept.

Such a blending of *town* and *society* action is found in the transactions relative to the erection of the Central church, 1826, that the civil and ecclesiastical portions of our history are, on this point, strangely commingled. To the details given in the chapter of civil history it may be added that the Centre house was dedicated Nov. 15, 1826; sermon by the pastor, from Gen. 28 : 17. In accordance with a previous vote of the town, the congregation held the last service in the old house in the forenoon of Dec. 3, the sermon being from John 4 : 20, "Our fathers worshipped in this mountain." In the intermission, the assembly repaired to the new house for the afternoon service, the sermon being from Psalm 132 : 8, 9. The East church was dedicated Dec. 20th; sermon by Rev. Mr. Lawton of Hillsboro.' The society worshipping in this house obtained, not long after, the services of Mr. Roswell Harris, a candidate for the congregational ministry; a respectable and estimable man, who preached to them somewhat over a year.

Without any anticipation of such a blessing, or the use of any special means whatever, by far the most general and powerful revival of religion ever enjoyed in Antrim, manifested itself in 1827. It was found in May that a few persons, hitherto void of special religious impressions, were inquiring what they must do to be saved. In a few weeks the interest spread into almost every part of the town; religious meetings were crowded with thoughtful and listening hearers, and opposition stood dumb before the power of the Divine Spirit. Few were found hardy enough to deny the finger of God. The good

work was at its height in August and September. In the course of sixteen months one hundred and three persons united with the Presbyterian church; the greatest number received at one time being fifty-one; the greater part of whom ever after sustained, in the judgment of charity, the christian character. It was a merciful dispensation, following a scene of protracted controversy about the location of a church; coming to strengthen the cause of religion at a critical time; and exerting a great and lasting influence on the moral state of the community. The whole number of professed converts in the town was not less than one hundred and twenty.

Oct. 25, a Congregational church of seventeen members, chiefly subjects of the existing revival, was organized by a council, in which the pastor and session of the Presbyterian church assisted, at the east meeting-house; to whom were soon added nine others, dismissed at their own request, from the Presbyterian church, and four more from other churches; making thirty in all. The sermon at the organization was by Rev. Mr. Cook, then of Acworth, from Ps. 4:3, first clause.

In 1829 and 1830 the additions to the Presbyterian church were only four. William Little and Joel Wilkins were added in the latter year to the session; John Vose was also elected an elder, but excused himself from an acceptance.

Memorable in the churches of this region is the year 1831, as the season of "protracted meetings," so called. Such meetings were holden in very many places; and though some objectionable features were discernable, the general results were in most instances decidedly good. The attention of great numbers was attracted to the truths and obligations of religion, and the moral state of society was ameliorated. Such a meeting was holden here during three days the latter part of August, and was attended, with deep interest, by crowds of people from this and other towns, and by many ministers. A considerable number of hopeful conversions ensued, many of which appeared, ever after, to be genuine and abiding. Thirty-six persons were added to the church that year. It was at length found that such meetings, like other things good in themselves but liable to perversion, were not free from some ill consequences; that some placed on them an undue reliance, to the disparagement of the ordinary means of grace; that they created a taste for exciting rather than instructive preaching; that some itinerant preachers used them as a means of disseminating unsound principles, and of introducing rash innovations. When these evils became apparent, the Spirit of God ceased to set on them, as heretofore, the seal of divine approbation, and the churches wisely returned to their former reliance on the ordinary means of religious instruction.

About 1831, the Rev. Joseph Davis, of the Baptist denomination, was engaged to preach at the East house, and supplied that desk, some portion of each year, for a period of twelve or more years; frequently preaching for a time in other places. Several families of that denomination in Antrim, Deering, and Society Land, together with

deserted in Canada, and his fate is unknown. Boyd died at the rendezvous in Concord, before the regiment marched to the scene of action. Holmes fell into the hands of the British at Fort Oswego. They transported a force over the lake to attack the fort; the garrison being weak, and finding that it would be impossible to make good the defence, retired from the fort soon after the assault began. Holmes, being later in retiring than the rest, turned about on his retreat and discharged his gun at the enemy, on which a British soldier shot him in the groin and he fell. The British rushed by and over him in pursuit of the garrison, who however escaped. On their return from the pursuit, four soldiers carried Holmes on a blanket, roughly and unfeelingly, toward the fort; a British officer, possessed of humanity, noticed their rough handling of the wounded man, and ordered them, under threat of striking them with his cutlass, to carry him gently. The British speedily evacuated and the Americans repossessed the fort, when Holmes found himself again in the hands of his own countrymen. He never entirely recovered from the effects of the wound, and died a few years after the close of the war.

A considerable British force, both naval and military, entered Penobscot bay in 1814, occupied some positions on the river, and threatened an attack on the seaports of New-England. Numbers of the militia of New-Hampshire either volunteered or were drafted to march for the defence of Portsmouth. From Antrim, John Robinson, Charles Gates, Samuel Vose, Isaac Saltmarsh, William Roach, Moody Barker, John Barker, Ira Wallace, Alexander Parker, and Levi Thompson, entered the militia service, to be stationed on the seaboard of the State. These, with militia men from contiguous towns, constituted a company commanded by Capt. William Gregg, of Antrim. As the British soon left the coast, all returned in safety except Ira Wallace, who died of disease at Portsmouth. At the time these men (some of whom volunteered and others were drafted,) were designated, the leading citizens met with the militia and gave a pledge in behalf of the town of a considerable addition to the pay to which they would be entitled under the law of the United States.

The vicissitudes of the war kept the public mind for almost three years in a state of constant excitement. The welcome news of peace came Feb. 1815, and produced an outburst of joy. The citizens of the town held, a few days after, a social meeting without distinction of parties, for mutual congratulation.

Sept. 25th, a tempestuous wind extended over a wide region, unroofing or demolishing old buildings, and prostrating immense numbers of fruit and forest trees. The injury to orchards and woodlots was greater in the northern section of Massachusetts than in New-Hampshire.

Memorable as *the cold season*, or "poverty year," was 1816. Snow fell in June; autumnal frosts were early and severe; very little Indian corn came to maturity. The next year also was cold and comparatively unproductive. In both seasons, however, the crops of English grain were fine and heavy, yielding a supply of breadst

sufficient to prevent much actual suffering. There being a scarcity of materials for fattening pork, many families resorted for a substitute to pickled mackerel, and these seasons were sometimes jocosely called "the mackerel years."

Deacon James Aiken, the first settler of South Antrim, having lived here half a century, died 1817; esteemed and venerated by his townsmen.

Violent thunder storms occurred, 1819, with more frequency than was remembered by the oldest persons living; sometimes every day for several successive days. No damage was done in Antrim by the wind except in one instance to the house of Dea. Josiah Duncan. In various other parts of New-England, buildings were set on fire and many persons killed by lightning.

The census of 1820 returned the population of Antrim as being 1330; a very small increase during the preceding ten years; attributable partly to the ravages of spotted fever, and still more to numerous emigrations of families and young men to the West.

On a week day, in the summer of this or the next following year, the first meeting-house was struck by lightning. It was a time of bright sunshine, after a sprinkle of rain, a little after noon; but a single cloud, and that small, being visible. The flash was vivid and the report violent, but soon over; no other thunder clap it is believed was heard that day. The electric fluid entered the roof directly over the pulpit, being attracted by the large bar of iron by which the canopy, that old-fashioned appendage of ancient meeting-houses, was suspended over the stand of the minister. It set the canopy on fire, and flames began to burst forth, when the people in the vicinity arrived in season to extinguish them. The casings of the pulpit window, and the finishing of one or two adjacent pews, were injured. Had the shock occurred in time of divine service, probably several persons must have been killed.

Communication between the south and north sections of the town, over Meeting-house Hill, being always inconvenient, and in winter often difficult, the result had been a degree of non-intercourse, in the way of social relations, which had led for many years to some sectional feelings and jealousies. To cement union and facilitate communication between the two portions, a new road, west of the hill, was constructed, 1822; being the one leading from Solomon Buckminster's to Thomas Twiss'.

It was about this period (the precise year not ascertained,) that individuals in this and other towns were deluded into the belief that at some former period, more than a century before, the noted pirate, Capt. Kidd, had penetrated into the wilderness and buried a treasure on the shore of Rye pond. Rods were resorted to, for the purpose of determining the precise locality. Individuals dug in search of the fancied treasure, but "had their labor for their pains;" the whole affair was a hoax on the part of some mischievous person, to see how far he could impose on popular credulity. Similar delusions have existed at almost all times, and in all parts of the world.

Aware that the new road would divert the travel from the old meeting-house, the people began to regard the location of that house, always inconvenient, as having become intolerable; especially in the season of wintry storms and drifting snows. The subject of either removing the old house, or building a new one, began to be agitated in earnest. Some informal meetings for consultation were followed by a town-meeting, Feb., 1823, when the town voted not to remove the old, but to take measures to build a new house; and chose a committee, one person from each school district, to select a location. At an adjourned meeting, in April, the committee reported that they were unable to agree on a site; it was found that there was a conflict of opinions and interests; the subject was dropped for the present, and the town, in their corporate capacity, never resumed it.

It was resumed, however, by individuals early in 1825, and a society was formed, not without serious opposition, for building the present Centre house. The transactions relative to the erection, contain such an intermixture of *town* action and *society* action, that it is not easy in this matter to run the line between the civil and ecclesiastical portions of our history. It was erected 1826, at an expense of \$6,200, and furnished by subscription with a bell at a cost of about \$400. Dissatisfied with the location, a number of citizens, in the east part of the town, united with others in Deering and Society Land (now Bennington,) and built, the same year, the East meeting-house, at a cost of about \$5000. At a town meeting, Nov. 27, it was voted to discontinue public worship at the old house; also that the town's minister, Rev. John M. Whiton, should thenceforth officiate in the new Centre house; and on the question whether he should preach any part of the time in the east house, the vote stood, yeas 34, nays 126.

There was a great drought in the summer of this year, and such surprising multitudes of grasshoppers that by some persons they were caught in nets and fed out to swine. For years after, it was referred to as "the grasshopper year." The hay crop was diminished nearly one half. On the afternoon of Aug. 28 a tremendous rain swelled the little brooks into raging torrents, so that by evening they were impassable, and the roar of foaming waters was heard in almost every direction. Much expense was incurred by the town for the repair of damaged roads and bridges. The autumn yielded an exuberant growth of grass, cold weather was late in coming, and the cattle found, till into December, ample supplies of food in the fields; happily disappointing gloomy anticipations of distressing scarcity.

Prior to 1827, almost all the citizens paid a tax for the support of the gospel, and diversity of denomination was scarce known. There being now two houses for public worship, and of course a conflicting state of feeling, a considerable number withdrew from the support of religious institutions at the Centre, of whom a part contributed to the support of preaching at the East house, and others stood aloof from any religious organization. A sufficient number remained

attached to the Centre house to sustain the ministry there, effectively and permanently.

Within a short space after the erection of the new churches, the old town burying-yard being remote from inhabitants, difficult of access, and a large part of it filled with graves, three new cemeteries were prepared : one near the Centre church, one near the East church, and one on the Plain in the north part of the town. All these burying grounds were opened for use in or near 1828.

The commencement of manufactures in Antrim, on any considerable scale, is referable to this year. There were then in the town three tanneries, six grain mills, seven saw-mills, two fulling and dressing mills with machinery for carding wool, four blacksmiths' shops, with the usual proportion of other mechanics. Imla Wright erected, 1828, a cotton factory on Great Brook, a large half mile from the Centre; an enterprise which gave birth to the present Clinton Village, of which Mr. Wright may be justly regarded as the founder. He prosecuted for some years the manufacture of cotton yarn, wicking, batting, and twine, a part of the time alone; another part in connection with associates, under an act of incorporation; and is believed to have been the first who manufactured and brought into market the cotton wrapping twine. But the business was at last relinquished, and the factory sold; it was afterwards converted into a manufactory of bedsteads, tables, bureaus, and other articles of household furniture. A large business has been done in this line by Hall & Putnam, by Pratt & Putnam, and by I. B. Pratt, and much of the work sent to Boston for sale. Samuel W. Abbot and Imla Wright commenced in Clinton Village, 1835, the manufacture of hat boxes and window shades; after they dissolved partnership, Abbot continued the business, adding to it the manufacture of paper fans. Since Abbot's removal, the window shade business has been continued by Samuel Abbot, by Abbot & Buckminster, and next by I. R. Abbot, to a considerable extent; a portion of the work finding its way to South-American markets. For the sake of a connected view of the progress of the manufacturing interest in Antrim, we must anticipate dates. Baldwin & White began the manufacture of cast-steel hoes in the South Village, 1835, being the first in the State who embarked in the enterprise. They continued in company about five years, and were succeeded in the business by Robbins & Flint, who continued it two or three years longer, to an amount of from \$2,000 to \$3,000 annually. In 1835, Thomas Poor, the owner of mills and a large tannery in South Village, entered on the manufacture of patent leather, continued it about two years to an amount of a few thousand dollars, when his shop was burned and the business was not resumed. At this time shingle mills had been introduced and been operative from 1829, and a large lumber business had sprung up in South Village, which still continues to be prosecuted. Boards, planks, shingles, and other kinds of lumber, have been manufactured in quantities sufficient, not only to meet the home demand, but also to furnish large supplies to other places. The timber is obtained from

some others in the vicinity, attended his ministry. A small Baptist church was organized, of which he was pastor, and in which Benjamin Nichols officiated as deacon. After an existence of about ten years its members thought it expedient to dissolve it, and the greater portion of them united with the Baptist church in Bennington. After Mr. Davis ceased to occupy that desk, other temporary supplies were obtained occasionally, chiefly from ministers of the Baptist and Methodist connections.

From 1832 to the close of 1835 the religious aspect of the town exhibited no noticeable change. In these four years, seventeen were received into the church, and the total number of resident members during this period exceeded two hundred. But the spirit of emigration had begun to make inroads into the number, and, from this time, towns and villages presenting higher encouragements to business and enterprise, drew away many of the more youthful members, and some of the more aged. Near one third of a Congregational church then existing at Alexandria, N. H., was composed of emigrants from Antrim. Death was rapidly removing the original and earlier members, and the additions, though more than equaling the number of deaths, were not adequate to make up both for that diminution, and also for the continued drain by emigration. In 1835 Samuel Fletcher and James Hopkins, Jun., were added to the board of elders, both of whom have deceased. The death-bed scene of Dea. Hopkins presented one of the most striking exhibitions ever witnessed in Antrim, how calmly, and sometimes joyfully, a christian can die. Dea. Fletcher was for years one of the most prominent and valued citizens of the town, being not only an elder of the church, but selectman, town-clerk, representative, justice of the peace; a man always to be trusted. The disease which proved fatal to him was malignant erysipelas, contracted, as was supposed, by inoculation, while aiding in preparing for the grave the body of his neighbor and friend, Mr. Joseph S. Atherton.

In 1836 occurred a revival of limited extent, almost confined to Clinton village and its immediate vicinity, resulting in several hopeful conversions. The church received that year an accession of twelve members, most of them young.

In the eight years from 1837 to the close of 1844, the Presbyterian church admitted to its fellowship forty-three individuals, and contained, at the close of this period, one hundred and seventy resident members; possibly a few more. The numbers stated in the preceding narration as added, include the additions both by profession and by letter; far the greater portion by profession. Soon after the organization of a Congregational church at the village, now Bennington, 1839, seven or eight members of the church in Antrim, having nearer and easier access to Bennington, requested and received letters of recommendation to that church. The Congregational church at the East meeting-house being much reduced in number by the removal of its members, was dissolved, 1843, when the most of its remaining members united with the Presbyterian church at the Centre.

We have now brought the details of our ecclesiastical history through a period of a century from the first settlement, to 1844. A continuation must be left to some other pen. As an aid, however, to the future annalist of the church, it may be stated (though it is traveling beyond our prescribed limits,) that the total of additions to the Presbyterian church from 1845 to 1851, inclusive of both years, was fifty-seven; of whom thirty-five were added in 1851; making the total number for a period of $43\frac{1}{2}$ years to be four hundred and thirty-three. In the religious interest of 1851 all the denominations in the town shared, but the details fall not within the limits of time proposed for this sketch.

A brief notice of the singing choir in Antrim will be of interest to some readers, and may be not unfitly added to the chapter of ecclesiastical history. The vote of the town, 1782, appointing Daniel Nichols "to read the psalm," is not easily explained; possibly it was meant to designate him to lead the church music. Dea. Arthur Nesmith came here, 1786, and is believed to have been the leader from that time to 1814; a period of twenty-eight years. From 1794 he was formally designated to the office by successive reëlections in town-meeting. His courteous, amiable manners made him acceptable to the choir and to the congregation. John Taylor officiated as first chorister a few years from 1814, having as associate choristers, William Gregg and David McAuley. Capt. McAuley died, 1817, and Mr. Taylor removed to the west about 1821. After the year last named the choir was led by William Gregg, with Charles Gates as associate chorister. Capt. Gregg died 1829. The leaders of the choir since that date have been, successively, Charles Gates, Giles Newton, Joel Wilkins, Solomon J. Buckminster, and Frederic S. Little.

The religious denominations existing in town, and holding meetings for worship, in 1852, (the year of the publication of this sketch,) are the Presbyterians, Baptists, and Methodists. A very large majority of the families, attached to any religious organization, are connected with the Presbyterian society. A society of Baptists resident in Antrim, Bennington, and Deering, worship in a hall in South Village, to whom the Rev. Mr. Lovejoy statedly ministers. A number of families of the Methodist denomination hold religious meetings in North Branch Village and at the East meeting-house, alternately, to whom the Rev. Mr. Dudley has preached for a period of from one to two years. A considerable number of families are not connected with any religious organization.

NOTICES OF THE EARLY SETTLERS OF ANTRIM.

PHILIP RILEY, the first settler, has been already noticed. He was a man of very limited information, and in old age became dependent on the town for support. A son-in-law, named Cochlan, was for some years freed from taxes on condition of keeping the father from becoming a charge on the town, which after a time he failed to do. Riley's death occurred not far from 1790.

JAMES AIKEN, afterwards the well known *Deacon* Aiken, the first settler of South Antrim, 1767, was the grandson of Edward Aiken, who came from Ireland, 1722, to Londonderry. His sons settled around him, from whom the neighborhood was called "Aiken's Range." Deacon Aiken had served as a soldier in the second French war, in the celebrated corps of Rangers commanded by Major Rogers, and used to relate thrilling incidents of olden time. He was once out on a scout with the Major near Lake George; the party was almost famished with hunger and thirst; nothing remained save one glass of rum in a soldier's canteen, to whom the Major offered a dollar for the rum. The soldier, suffering not less than his officer, replied, Major Rogers, I love you, but love myself better,"—at the same moment turning up the canteen and swallowing the rum. Dea. Aiken was a man of energy and benevolence; his house was a father's house to early settlers, whom he befriended to the extent of his power, and the home of the ministers who preached here occasionally in early times. He died, 1817, aged eighty-five; universally respected and leaving a numerous posterity, of whom a few remain in Antrim, and more are dispersed in other and distant States.

WILLIAM SMITH, the second settler of South Antrim, came from Londonderry, 1771. He was a quiet, peaceable, pious man; died 1800, aged eighty-five. His son, *John* Smith, a celebrated marksman and hunter, died 1826, leaving a widow who still survives. Another son, Robert, lived many years on the John Wallace farm, and removed into the State of Maine.

JOHN GORDON was a Scottish Highlander, came here as early as 1770, and in 1772 settled on the Dustin place. After a few years he removed to some neighboring town, and thence to some place in or near Canada; died many years ago, among strangers. His son, *Daniel*, having resided successively in Hillsboro', Washington, and Windsor, returned to Antrim, 1850, and died a few weeks after, aged

eighty-two. He remembered working at felling trees, in Mr. Dustin's garden, on the intensely hot day of Bunker-hill battle; being then a boy seven years old.

MAURICE LYNCH was from New-Boston, and began the Stacey farm, 1772. He was a man of some education, a land surveyor, and the first town-clerk. Having lost a child by death, before it was known where the centre of the town would fall, no mode of burial was in his power, other than to inclose the body in a rough box or trough, to carry it in his arms into the woods, and bury it in a spot as near as he could guess to the future centre. He remained here but a few years; returning with his family to New-Boston about 1784, where he afterwards died.

RANDALL ALEXANDER, the descendant of an early settler of Londonderry, began to subdue the farm now Lyman Dow's, 1772; had been a soldier in the last French war; removed his family from town about 1784; and after an absence of forty years, returned as a pauper, with locks whitened by age, scarce remembered by the aged inhabitants. He died, 1826, aged ninety-two. Some one objected to ringing the bell at his death from an impression, perhaps erroneous, that in Canada he once stood a passive spectator of the murder, by a brutal soldier, of a little French girl, for her gold beads, when the child flew to him for protection, and he might have prevented the bloody deed.

JOHN DUNCAN, afterwards Esquire, was the great-grandson of George Duncan, who lived and died in Ireland. His son, George, emigrated to America soon after 1720, settled in Londonderry, was a magistrate, and a prominent citizen. Deacon George Duncan, son of second George, married a Bell, a descendant of a Scottish emigrant, who settled in Ireland in 1612, and was the father of Esq. John, of Antrim. He removed his family here, 1773, making the seventh in town. He was long an eminent citizen, being selectman, town-clerk, magistrate, representative, and senator. In one instance he was Speaker of the House, pro. tem. His cheerfulness, candor and integrity won him many friends. As a magistrate, he was eminently a peace-maker, often relinquishing his fees to induce contending parties to settle their disputes. As an elder of the church, he labored to advance the moral and religious interests of the town. Sometimes, but sparingly, he indulged in sallies of wit. A Mr. Pickering, an eminent lawyer, once said in the House of Representatives that lawyers were the pillars of the State, as without their aid not a single important bill could be drafted. Mr. Duncan rose and said, in his Scottish accent, "Mr. Speaker, there are different kinds of *pallyars*; there is a kind of pallyars that supports buildings; there is also another kind of pallyars called *caterpallyars*, that devour men's substance; if the gentlemen refer to the latter kind of pallyars, I perfectly agree with him." Mr. Duncan closed his long life, 1823, aged eighty-nine; it being justly said at his funeral that no man in

town had done more good. His only son William, died, 1846, leaving the old homestead to the present Josiah Duncan. John's grandmother was a native of one of the Orkney Islands, on the north of Scotland.

JAMES DICKEY, a descendant of an early emigrant from Ireland to Londonderry, planted himself in Antrim, 1774, on the farm recently purchased by Reuben Boutell; enlisted into the Revolutionary service, and mysteriously disappeared, as before related, at White Plains, 1776. His widow and family, who were very respectable, removed, many years ago to New-York.

JOSEPH BOYD, afterwards Deacon Boyd, son of William, an emigrant from the north of Ireland to Londonderry, became a resident of Antrim, 1774, and began the Jesse Goodell farm. He was a man of singular industry, candor and sincerity, an elder of the Presbyterian church, and enjoyed the general respect of his townsmen. It used to be said of him that no man ever saw in him any thing unfair or dishonorable. He died, 1816, of a disease of the bladder; his death probably hastened by being thrown violently out of his carriage, near the old meeting-house on the Sabbath. Dea. Boyd had two brothers who settled in Antrim: *William*, who came here a year or two later than Joseph, began to cultivate the farm now Mr. Starret's, and after a residence of about twenty years returned to Londonderry; and *James*, who began, about 1791, to subdue the large and valuable farm now his son's, the present James Boyd. James, senior, died 1835, aged sixty-seven. He married Fanny Baldwin, of Hollis, a woman of great excellence of character, who died 1828.

JAMES DUNCAN, a cousin of Hon. John Duncan, settled in 1774 on the place of Cyrus Saltmarsh, Esq.; died 1825, aged seventy-nine.

DANIEL MCFARLAND, a native of Goffstown, began, 1774, the place now N. W. C. Jameson's. He was a man of many eccentricities. Under some mental hallucination, he at one time fancied himself to be the heir of an earldom in Scotland, and built, as a proper appendage to his supposed dignity, a very large house, which stood in his day unfinished. Part of it has been taken down, and the remainder converted into a tasteful residence by the present owner. Mr. McFarland died, 1829, aged ninety-six. It may amuse the reader to learn the origin of the name. As tradition will have it, a stranger, named John, came some centuries ago from a foreign country to Scotland; to distinguish him from *other* Johns, and to indicate that he came from a far country, the people called him *Far-land*, and by adding the Scottish prefix, *Mac*, John McFarland.

JOHN WARREN began the clearing of the John Wallace farm 1774; built the first saw-mill in town, two years after; removed his family to Canada about 1800. Little is known of the incidents of his life while a resident of Antrim.

JAMES MOOR was an emigrant from Ireland, settled in Antrim, 1774, on the farm once owned by Josiah Wallace, at present owned in part by Isaac C. Tuttle; built the first grist-mill in town, 1777; was familiarly known as *Miller Moor*. His nephew, *Samuel*, came hither from Ireland about 1778, and married James' daughter, Hannah. He was from a respectable family, well educated for the times, and served as town-clerk. *Miller Moor* died about 1788. *Samuel*, who had twelve children, removed his large family to Walpole, 1790, and has been dead many years.

JOHN BURNS, from New-Boston, began, 1774, the place in the high range now owned in part by Widow Weston; remained here but one summer, being succeeded, in 1775, by his brother *Robert*, who resided in town till his death, 1829, aged eighty-one.

——— HUTCHINSON came here from Amherst, 1774, labored one season on land afterwards the Boutell farm, west of Mr. Webster's, now converted into pasturage. As related on another page, he was mortally wounded by a cannon ball, on Charlestown neck, the day after Bunker-hill battle.

Samuel Nichols emigrated from the county of Antrim in Ireland, about 1754, resided in other towns many years, came to Antrim in his old age, and died, 1804, at the house of Daniel Nichols, Esq. He was the father of four sons, early settlers of Antrim, viz: THOMAS, born in Ireland, brought to America when an infant at the breast, came to this town when a lad, 1767, lived with Dea. Aiken, and after a few years settled on the place now Josiah W. Christie's. He was an enterprising, influential citizen, served in various town offices, and was captain of the militia; an office of more consideration then than at this day. In the dysentery of 1800, Capt. Nichols buried three children in one day. He removed to Lake Erie, 1808, and died soon after of the lake fever. Of his grand-children, one was a missionary, and another a female teacher among the Seneca Indians. DANIEL, afterwards Esq., came here a young, single man, 1774, and in a few years after settled on the farm at this day Mr. Turner's. He was much employed in town business, was a magistrate, an elder of the church, and the delegate of Antrim to the Convention which revised the Constitution of New-Hampshire, 1792. His death, of spotted fever, 1812, was much lamented. His son, John, a young man of much promise, was a missionary to India, and died near Bombay, in 1824. A heathen native, having conducted a succeeding missionary to Mr. Nichols' grave, said with emotion, "*He was a good man.*" His widow married an Episcopal missionary in Ceylon, and is deceased. Mary, youngest daughter of Daniel, a young lady of superior talents and education, was a successful teacher of female select schools, and died in early life, 1823. ADAM came here with his brother Daniel, began the McCoy farm, removed, 1805, to New-York, afterwards to Kentucky, where he died, 1846, in his ninetyeth year. John, another brother of Daniel, and a soldier under Stark,

at Bennington battle, came here somewhat later than his brothers; removed first to Fracestown, and thence about 1812, to Genessee County, New-York; died there, 1849, aged almost ninety. His posterity are in the far west.

MATTHEW TEMPLETON, from Londonderry, began, 1775, to subdue the Ira Cochran farm, lived there nine or ten years, removed thence to Peterboro', where he died at an advanced age. He was an upright man, but remarkable for his strong antipathy to instrumental music in churches. The pitch-pipe used in olden time, he called *the whistle*; the bass-viol, *Dagon*. At Peterboro', on a certain Sabbath, the chorister, John Smith, a brother of Gov. Smith, gave the key with the pitch-pipe; the choir began to sing the psalm, but became confused and stopped; old Mr. Templeton, who sat near the pulpit, turned his head slowly round to the choir, and exclaimed aloud, "Ah, Johnny Smith, ye maun blaw your whastle again!"

THOMAS STUART, from Merrimac, long known as Capt. Stuart, settled, 1775, on the farm now Esquire Flint's. His sound judgment and exemplary life commanded respect, and procured his election to various town offices. He died, 1803, aged 55. His wife, Sarah McAuley, a woman of excellent character, survived her husband many years. Having lost their children by death, their nephew, Capt. David McAuley, inherited their property. He became one of the leading citizens of the town, much employed in town business, but died in the prime of life, 1817. Capt. Stuart had a brother, *Francis*, who settled near the Branch Village, but after some years removed his family to Canada.

RICHARD MCALISTER built a house, 1775, on the north side of Meeting-house Hill, on or near the spot where now stands a small house owned by Isaac Barrett; brought under cultivation a farm; removed, about 1793, to Alstead, and thence to Springfield, Vt. His brother *James* came to Antrim about the same time with Richard; began the farm at this day Miles Tuttle's; died 1823, advanced in years. His wife, daughter of John McClary, died about 1845, very aged; much respected for her uniform piety and exemplary life. When their barn was raised, help was scarce in those early days; the men, having raised a band half way up, came to a stand; raise it higher they could not, and to let it fall back threatened broken bones. Their calls alarmed Mrs. McAlister, who with two other women there on a visit, ran to their help; the addition of the women's strength barely enabled the men to raise the band to its place, though with the utmost exertion; and perhaps prevented a sad catastrophe. Another brother of Richard, *John*, a blacksmith, came here in the course of the revolutionary war; settled at first on the north side of Meeting-house Hill, afterwards on the Woodburn Wallace farm, and removed, about 1814, to Vermont.

JOHN MCCLARY, the first settler on the Madison Tuttle farm, 1775, was from Ireland, brought here a considerable family, was a linen

weaver, an occupation then followed by men, and deemed respectable; died, 1796. His son *John* married a McNeil of Hillsboro', and soon removed to that town, and afterwards to Vermont. Another son, *Thomas*, was frozen to death, about 1790. He went on a cold January evening to a little store in Hillsboro', asked permission to stay over night, was refused, and in the attempt to return home, became bewildered and perished. Another son of first John, *William*, lived on a place west of Elijah Gold's, and was frozen to death on or near the old Turnpike, in December, 1811. David McClary, who lived long in the Woodbury family, and died, 1850, was the son of second John.

ALEXANDER JAMESON, from Dunbarton, established himself on the Temple farm, certainly as early as 1776, resided there over twenty years, and removed, 1798, to Cherry Valley, N. Y. *Hugh*, his brother, came here a little later, built a house on the old Turnpike, and died in early life, 1795. His widow, who was a Steele, removed to Allegany County, N. Y., and died there, 1848, aged ninety-five. *Thomas*, brother of *Hugh* and *Alexander*, settled in Antrim, about 1785, on the farm inherited from him by his son, the present Alexander Jameson; was known as Capt. Jameson, was an active and valuable citizen, and died, 1839, aged seventy-nine. The Jameson families, though immediately from Dunbarton, originated from Londonderry.

Those names in the preceding list, printed in SMALL CAPITALS, comprise the resident freeholders in the town at the date of the incorporation, 1777.

Jonathan Nesmith, son of James, who was born before the emigration of the family to America, or as some say on the passage, and the grandson of Elder James Nesmith, an early and respectable settler of Londonderry, who emigrated 1718, from the valley of the river Bann, in the north of Ireland; settled in Antrim, 1778, having previously labored on his land a part of two or three preceding summers. He was among the most respectable citizens, was selectman, one of the first board of elders, and representative for four years. Deacon Nesmith was eminently social and hospitable, had a great flow of spirits, and withal a sound judgment and a blameless reputation. No man enjoyed a larger share of public confidence. He was present as an elder in the church at each communion, save one, for half a century; died, 1845, aged eighty-six. His son, Capt. Thomas D. Nesmith, inherited the paternal estate, but died in the prime of life, leaving the old homestead to his son, the present Jonathan Nesmith. Another son of Dea. Nesmith, George W., is a distinguished attorney at Franklin, N. H., and was for some years President of the Northern Railroad.

James Nesmith, a cousin of Dea. Jonathan N., began, 1778, the farm now owned by Chandler Boutell, and lived afterwards on the north declivity of Meeting-house Hill. He had been in the revolutionary

service; was an honest useful man, an elder of the church, selectman for some years, for twenty-seven successive years town-clerk, generally chosen by a unanimous vote, even in times of high party excitement, and would have been continued longer in the office, had he not become legally disqualified by ceasing to be a freeholder. He used pleasantly to remark that the perquisites of his office about found him in his *tobacco*. Intentions of marriage were not then, as now, posted in writing, but published orally by the town-clerk in the church. A multitude of such publications were made by Dea. Nesmith, in his loud and sonorous voice. He died, 1845, aged eighty-seven.

Arthur Nesmith came to Antrim a few years later than his brother James, and began to subdue the farm at this day owned by Jonathan Carr. The mother of the two brothers was Elizabeth Reid, sister of Gen. George Reid of Londonderry, an officer of distinction in the revolutionary war, and a frequent correspondent of Washington. Arthur was a man of good talents, amiable and unassuming in his manners; was frequently chosen selectman; was an elder in the church; led the church music more than a quarter century, by annual recollections by the town, and succeeded in preserving in the choir an almost uninterrupted harmony of feeling. To the regret of the citizens he removed to Ohio, 1816, under the impression that a milder climate would be more congenial to his health. He was the subject of deep religious impressions in early life, but association with thoughtless companions almost effaced them for a time. The remarkable northern lights in the revolutionary war, and the dark day of 1780, recalled those impressions, which happily resulted in an abiding moral change. His cheerful and uniform piety was an ornament to the christian profession. In 1823, on his way to church on Sabbath morning, in apparent health, he fell down in the road and immediately expired, at the age of sixty-three.

It will be seen from the above, that at one time there were *three* Deacon Nesmiths here, who were distinguished in common parlance as Deacon *Jonathan*, Deacon *James*, and Deacon *Arthur*.

Daniel Miltimore, from Londonderry, established himself on the John Blanchard farm certainly as early as 1778; perhaps a year or two sooner. He was a man of capacity, had much influence among the early citizens, was selectman and town-clerk. After some years residence, he returned to Londonderry, was well known afterwards as Col. Miltimore, and died there many years ago.

James Carr, afterwards known as Deacon Carr, was the son of John, an emigrant from Ireland, 1722, who married Isabella Walker, a domestic who came to America in the family of Rev. James McGregor, and settled in Merrimac. John had a brother James, killed by the Indians at Bow, 1748, whose faithful dog, though stunned by the blow of a hatchet, revived, guarded the corpse of his master all night, and the next day would hardly allow his neighbors to remove

the body. Dea. Carr came to Antrim, 1778, and began the farm now his grandson's, Reed Carrs. Though his parents resided in Goffstown, yet he was born in Litchfield, his mother happening to be there at the time on a visit. He was a kind, cheerful, good man, respected for his exemplary life; died 1834, aged 86. His sons have deceased or emigrated; only a daughter, Mrs. Brackett, remains here.

Two brothers of Deacon Carr settled in Antrim: *David*, who lived in a house once standing on the present Keene road north of Reed Carr's, resided here some years, and removed to Holderness; and *John*, who came a few years later than James, began the Oren Carr place. Died 1822, aged 63. His aged widow, once Sarah Hickson, of Sharon, Ms., survives, and lives with her son Jonathan Carr. Her retentive memory has been a help in the preparation of some of these notices.

John Stuart came here, it is believed, from Londonderry, or the vicinity, 1778, lived at first in a house once standing south of Mr. Stacey's, removed with a son to Unity, about 1810, and died there not long afterwards. His wife was Abigail Phipps, said by tradition to have been great grand-daughter of the celebrated Sir William Phipps, first Governor of Massachusetts under the second royal Charter. She had a slight tinge of African, as her husband was said to have had of Indian blood. Mrs. Stuart, familiarly known of old as *Granny Stuart*, was a kind, neighborly woman, an excellent nurse, a self-taught Doctress, ready to aid the sick by day or night, and often useful, before there was a regular physician in the place. She died, 1800.

Robert McKean, grandson of *Justice McKean*, one of the patriarchs of Derry, came hither about 1778, began the John Dodge farm, which he exchanged with Col. McClure for the Raymond farm. He was an upright, worthy man. Having buried three out of five children here, he removed, about 1800, to Corinth, Vt. Soon after his removal, his wife and his only daughter died of fever. Two persons from Canada coming to the place, communicated to Mr. McKean the small-pox infection; his neighbors in alarm carried him to a little camp in the woods, remote from inhabitants; he had the disease of the confluent and malignant kind; and destitute of suitable attendance, died, 1809, his head being frightfully swollen and disfigured. His brother, Rev. Joseph McKean, of Beverly, afterwards President of Bowdoin College, hearing of his death, and that his only child, Joseph, was left a destitute orphan, made a journey to Vermont, took the orphan under his protection, and gave him a liberal education. The nephew, a native of Antrim, afterwards went to New-York, acquired distinction, and became Superintendent of the Public Schools of the State. Such are the mutations and vicissitudes of human life!

Elias Cheney came here about 1778, lived in an old house, now or lately standing on the west side of the road from William Duncan's to Cork bridge, and after a residence of many years removed his family to Cabot, Vt. *Tristram Cheney*, perhaps a brother of Elias, and

one of the first Deacons of the Church in Hillsboro', resided, at least for a time, within the limits of Antrim, near Hillsboro' line, and afterwards removed to Marlow.

John McCoy, from Windham, emigrated to Antrim, 1779, began the farm on the Turnpike afterwards occupied as a tavern stand, now Elijah Gould's, removed after some years to the farm now Milton McCoy's, died 1823, aged 73. In the war of Independence he served in a privateer, sailed round the North Cape of Europe, and put into a port of Russian Lapland, the ship's crew and the inhabitants having no communication except through the medium of the Surgeon of the vessel and the Russian priest, both of whom understood something of latin. His son, Thomas McCoy, an influential and useful citizen, who held important town offices for many years, died 1851, aged 69.

Philip Coffin was an early settler, coming here about 1779, and living near Elijah Gould's. Little is known of him, except that after some year's residence he removed from the town.

John Campbell, son of Hugh, an emigrant from England, who fixed his abode at New-Salem, N. H., prior to 1755, emigrated to Antrim, 1779, began the farm at present owned by James Woods, died 1843, aged 88. With the exception of James, his numerous family of sons have deceased or emigrated.

Samuel Gregg was the grandson of Capt. James Gregg, an emigrant from Ireland, and one of the first sixteen settlers of Londonderry. Samuel came to Antrim, 1779, with a family of six children, and subdued the farm at the Centre, owned in part at this day by Charles Gates. He was a man of enterprise and laborious industry. Coming home one evening from the place now Dea. Nichols', with a jug of milk in his hand, a bear attacked him; he struck him a powerful blow with the jug, breaking it and scattering the milk over bruin's face, who, not relishing his reception, quickly made off. Mr. Gregg removed, 1793, to the Buswell place, built the first set of mills there, and gave his name to the adjoining pond. Between his death, 1809, and that of his wife, was an interval of only a few days; his age being 69, hers 66. His son Robert began the place now David Hill's, Jun., enjoyed the confidence of his townsmen, was town-clerk, and for many years chairman of the board of selectmen; removed to the State of New-York about 1832, died there 1849, aged more than 80. Another son of Samuel, was Daniel, a captain in the regular service in the war of 1812, who afterwards removed to Ohio and died there. Another son, David, resides in Antrim, quite aged.

Benj. Gregg, a cousin of Samuel, came here as a resident, 1779, and began the Edward L. Vose place, at the Centre. Both he and Samuel had probably worked on their land a year or two before their permanent residence. He remained here about twelve years, sold his farm to Samuel Caldwell, and returned to Londonderry.

William McDole came from Goffstown, 1779, began the farm of

Wm. S. Foster, having bought the land at a quarter of a dollar per acre, resided there till 1808, then removed his family to Lansgrove, Vt. He has since died.

Thomas English took up his abode in Antrim, 1779 or 1780; lived on the Tuttle hill, on the old road from Branch Village to Madison Tuttle's; had been a fifer in the revolutionary service; absconded, 1782, with a sum of money belonging to the town, who laid an attachment on his land, and afterwards made some sort of a compromise with his friends.

Samuel Dinsmoor, a son of John D., of Windham, and a grandson, on his mother's side, of *Justice McKean*, one of the earliest magistrates of Londonderry, came here, 1780; was working on his land on the dark day of that year. Died, 1822, aged 66. He was cousin of the elder Gov. Dinsmoor; was succeeded on his farm, first, by his son, Col. Silas Dinsmoor, now of Stoddard; afterwards by another son, Samuel, the present owner.

He had a brother, *James*, who began, 1779, the Zadoc Dodge farm, and was killed by a fall from the first meeting-house, 1786.

Another brother, *Silas*, a man of wit and shrewdness, was employed by government as an agent in Indian affairs. He is said to have lost his office by a witticism. Receiving in a letter from the Head of his Department, the inquiry, "How far Tombigbee river ran up into the country?"—he replied, "The river ran *down*, and not *up* at all." The next communication from the seat of government brought him a dismissal from his office.

Major Riley, son of Philip, the first settler, began about 1780, the original Elijah Gould farm, removed to a place within the limits of Deering, and died, years ago, at an advanced age.

Nathan Austin, who had lived in Pelham and Hudson, commenced the clearing of the Danforth farm, west of Elijah Gould's, 1780, resided there at least twenty years, removed to Rochester, Vt., and died a few years since. Many of his descendants are at the west.

Samuel Patten emigrated to Antrim from Bedford, 1780, made a farm on the lofty hill still bearing his name, and lived there, it is believed, not far from fifteen years. He was well known as *Capt. Patten*; was a respectable citizen and selectman; was a grandson of John Patten, an emigrant from Ireland to America, 1728, and a brother of Hon. Matthew Patten, of Bedford, the second judge of probate for the county of Hillsboro'. *Capt. Patten*, finding his residence on the hill lonely, and in winter almost inaccessible, removed his family into the State of Maine.

James Steele, son of Thomas, one of the first sixteen settlers of Londonderry, removed his family from that place to Antrim, 1780, began the cultivation of the farm now owned by his grandson, Dea. Robert Steele, lived to the great age of almost 95, and died, 1820. Two of his sons emigrated, many years ago, to Carolina. Two other

sons became permanent inhabitants of Antrim; *James*, who for many years was the owner of the Asa Goodell farm, died, 1826, aged 68; and Samuel, the father of Dea. Robert S., who died, 1843, aged 80:—both were respectable, substantial citizens. Several of the daughters of the first James married and resided in Antrim, of whom, *Susannah*, widow of the late Dea. Spaulding, of Hillsboro', was the last survivor, dying 1850, and leaving bequests of several hundred dollars to religious charities.

Simeon George removed from Newburyport to Antrim, 1781, and lived at first in a log-house near the rose-bushes still flourishing a little west of Dea. Nichols'. Several adult sons came here with him; *David*, who lived near a clump of apple-trees, in the north-west corner of Stevens Paige's pasture; *Michael*, who began the Dea. Wilkins farm; and *Simeon*, who lived in a log-house once standing in Geo. F. Parmenter's field, and afterwards built a frame house on the spot at this day occupied by Dea. Nichols' dwelling. Mr. George, and his sons, *David* and *Michael*, had served in the war of Independence. The various branches of the George family removed, about 1795, to the State of New-York.

Samuel and Daniel Downing, brothers, came here from Newburyport, probably about 1781. Samuel began the Stephen Butterfield farm, lived afterwards in a log-house south-west of Mr. Bond's, and removed from town. Daniel commenced the cultivation of the farm now occupied by the widow of Wm. Wilkins, and not far from 1792 removed to Marlow.

John and William McIlvaine, brothers, were sons of Daniel, an emigrant from Ireland, who settled in Windham more than a century ago. They came to Antrim about 1782; *John* settled on the farm occupied at present by Robert Hopkins, and William planted himself on the place now John Barker's. After a residence of some years, both sold their farms and removed to Francestown. Their brother, *Daniel*, came here a few years later, settled on the farm occupied at this date by his grandson, the present Daniel McIlvaine, and died, 1833, aged 84. His son, Lieut. Daniel McIlvaine, a worthy and respected citizen, died the same month, in the prime of life. He was once bitten in the heel by a large adder, and supposed that the bite had ever after an unfavorable influence on his health.

Thomas Day came from New-Salem, Ms., was in the revolutionary service, became an inhabitant of this town, 1783, lived at first in a log-house south-east of Mr. Dinsmoor's, afterwards in a house once standing between Oren Carr's and Jesse Combs'; died at New-Salem, 1824, aged 75. None of his children remain in town except the widow Thompson.

Reuben Boutell was from Amherst or the vicinity, and settled in 1783 or 1784, first on the Benj. Symonds farm, afterwards on land, once cultivated as a farm, adjoining to Mr. Webster's. He was a la-

borious, valuable citizen; died, 1816, aged about 60. Two of his sons, Chandler and William, reside in town.

James Hopkins, afterwards Esq., was from Windham, began, in 1783 or 1784, the clearing of the farm owned by Silas Hardy, soon exchanged this place for the farm now Lyman Dow's, became a prominent citizen and a large land-holder; was selectman and justice of the peace. He had served for a time in the revolutionary war. Died, 1843, aged 81. He married, for his first wife, Catherine, a daughter of Dea. Aiken, a woman of more than ordinary benevolence and excellence of character, who died, 1820. Only one of his children, Clark Hopkins, remains in town. Another son of Esq. James, was *Deacon James*, who died 1838, in the meridian of life. Dea. Hopkins' son, Luther, died not long since at Key West, in Florida, and was buried in a grave dug out of a rock, to prevent the body being washed away by the waves. The precaution was suggested by the previous occurrence of a tropical tempest, producing so violent an influx of the sea as to wash away many of the graves.

James Wallace, a grandson of John, an early emigrant from Colrain, Ireland, married Jennet Walker, and came to Antrim, 1784. He had been a soldier under Stark at Bennington; settled on the Stacey farm; at one time kept a small store of foreign goods; was a man of respectable and christian character, selectman and representative. In the early part of his residence here, he was once pursued by a bear, and forced to climb a tree, for safety; the bear sat watching him an hour or more, and then slowly walked off. He died at Bedford, about 1848, some years over four-score. Of his sons, John is the only one remaining in Antrim; James resides in Manchester, and Benj. F., late editor of the Manchester Messenger, in Bedford.

Mr. Wallace had two brothers who settled in Antrim: *John*, who came later than James, lived on the place now Samuel Wilson's, and removed to Putney, Vt., about 1812; and *Josiah*, who came here, 1806, built the three story house in the Branch Village, owned the mills there, and died, 1843, aged 75.

Thomas McCoy is referred to in an old record of a road in 1783, as then owning a house in this town, supposed from the tenor of the record to be near Hopkins Griffin's. No farther information in relation to him has been found accessible.

David McClure, afterwards well known as Col. McClure, was from Goffstown, became a resident of Antrim, 1784, began the farm now Mr. Raymond's which he afterwards exchanged for the John Dodge place; died, 1835, aged 77. Col. McClure was a respectable man, and, after passing through the various subordinate grades, was for many years colonel of the 26th regiment, which had been formerly commanded by Gov. Pierce, and was at that day the "crack" regiment of the State. All his children, save two sons, have died or removed from town.

Nathan Taylor, successor of John Gordon on the Dustin place, removed his family from Amherst to Antrim, 1780, and died of a cancer about 1792.

Isaac Cochran, afterwards Dea. Cochran, a grandson of John, an early emigrant from Ireland to Windham, removed to Antrim, 1784, and built the first two story house in town. His father had a sister Elizabeth, who married a Dinsmoor, and became the mother of Dea. Robert Dinsmoor, of Windham, the well-known "Rustic Bard," and of the elder Gov. Dinsmoor; also the grand-mother of the younger Gov. Dinsmoor. Dea. Cochran was one of the most useful and respected citizens of the place, selectman, a member of the first board of elders, a man of uniform and eminent piety. He possessed a portion of true genius, was the author of many poetical effusions, and died, 1825, aged 84. No man labored more faithfully to sustain religious institutions, and to preserve the peace and good order of the church and community. His son *James*, distinguished for activity and energy, remarkable also for accidental wounds and broken bones, died, 1851, aged 78, after several years of extreme suffering, having honorably discharged the duties of a good citizen, and leaving the old homestead to his son, Ira Cochran. Another son of James, Andrew C., resides in Hancock. Andrew, brother of James, died, 1820. One of his sons, Rev. Sylvester Cochran, resides in Michigan, highly useful as a minister of the gospel, and preceptor of a private Academy. A daughter of Andrew, Clarissa, resides at St. Augustine, Florida, and owns an extensive orangery.

The preceding list includes all, or nearly all, who became residents of this town within forty years from the first settlement in 1744. The period from 1784 to the close of the last century, in 1800, exhibits a large ratio of increase; numerous emigrants fixed their domicile here. To avoid tedious prolixity, our subsequent notices must be brief, with the exception of a few instances, when matters of interest require a little more minuteness of detail.

Alexander Gregg, from Windham, began to reside here, 1785, had served in a privateer in the revolutionary war, and sailed into the Arctic ocean, in quest of British whalers, and vessels trading to Archangel, in Russia; began the farm now Stickney Buck's; died, 1830, aged 77. One of his sons, Capt. Wm. Gregg, an esteemed and valuable citizen, who for some years led the church music, died a year before the death of his father. Another son, Dr. James W. Gregg, is in California.

Lemuel and Stephen Curtice, brothers, from Boxford, Ms., came here, 1785, perhaps a year earlier, and began to clear off the forest on Windsor mountain; the former lived on the farm inherited from him by his son, the present Lemuel Curtice; built his house just within the line of Antrim, died many years ago quite aged; the latter lived in a house once standing half a mile east of Lemuel's, died, 1832, aged 77. None of his descendants remain here.

Robert Willey, an emigrant from Ireland, came to this town about 1785, began the John Robinson farm, and removed, about 1801, to some town in the northern part of New-Hampshire.

Percy Dow became an inhabitant, 1785, lived in a house once standing on the west side of the old road, a fourth of a mile north of the first meeting-house, and after a few year's residence here, removed to Cornish.

Benj. Butterfield came here, 1785, built a log house a third of a mile west of Capt. Rodney Sawyer's, lived there four or five years, and removed from town.

Another Butterfield, whose given name was Charles, lived a few years, from 1795 to about 1800, in a house then standing on the side of the mountain, north of Artemas Brown's. Prior to his removal from town his house was burnt.

Eben'r Kidder removed from Chelmsford to Antrim, about 1785, lived on the place which has descended to his grandson, Reuben Kidder, and died after a residence here of about fifteen years. His son, John Kidder, died, 1815.

Adam Dunlap came from Londonderry to this town, 1786, had been in the revolutionary service, began the farm now Mr. Moulton's, died, 1823, aged at least 70. His wife, and also the wife of Alex'r Gregg, were sisters of Hon. Wm. Adams, of Londonderry.

Tobias Butler was an emigrant from Ireland, was educated a Catholic, designed, as tradition says, to be a Catholic priest. He, however, became a Protestant, and resolved to try his fortune in America; resided some years in New-Boston, and served at Ticonderoga in the revolutionary war; came to Antrim, 1786, lived where Silas Hardy now does; was at one time town-clerk; being often employed as a school-teacher, he was familiarly called *Master Butler*; was a man of honesty and religious principle, but rather unacquainted with business affairs. He removed, about 1804, to Hillsboro'; afterwards returned to Antrim to live with a son, and died 1829, aged 83. Almost all his descendants, with the exception of Thomas, have emigrated from Antrim. One of his sons, about 1800, built a small store at the Four Corners, by the town-house, but soon relinquished trade. *John*, brother of Tobias, a man of some education, came to this country, lived a short time in a small log house in Silas Hardy's pasture; but, not being pleased with America, returned to Ireland.

Sutheric Weston removed from Amherst to Antrim, 1786, lived on the Dustin farm in Branch Village, was elected an elder of the church, 1800, died, 1831, aged 79. He was an exemplary and good citizen. His descendants have emigrated, some of them to the far west. He served in the war of Independence, was taken prisoner at the Cedars, in Canada, suffered much from starvation; himself and fellow prisoners were once relieved by a benevolent French lady, who sent them pork and peas enough for a plentiful meal.

William Brown, came from Chester, about 1786, began the farm now Samuel Woods', died, 1830, aged 84. His descendants have left the town.

William Holmes, from Dunbarton, became a resident of Antrim, 1786, began the farm at this day his son's, Thomas Holmes, Esq.; died, 1798, in early life. A brother of his, *Robert*, began the farm now the town's farm, but after a residence of two or three years, sold it, and returned to Dunbarton, where he was afterwards well-known as *Col. Holmes*. Another William Holmes, a wheelwright, not known to be a relative of the first William, came about the same time to the place at present owned by Hopkins Griffin, lived there some half dozen years, and removed to Peterboro'.

John Moor, a descendant of an early emigrant from Ireland to Londonderry, began to subdue the Bartlett Wallace farm, 1786, perhaps a year earlier; was mortally wounded by the fall of a limb of a tree, 1808. His widow, Abigail, daughter of Hon. John Duncan, died, 1848, very aged, being the last survivor of the original members of the Presbyterian church, with which she had been connected sixty years.

Isaac Patterson came here, 1786, lived a few years in the west part of the town, then left the place. Little is known of him.

John Alexander, from Londonderry or vicinity, was the first settler on the farm now Daniel Holt's, 1787, afterwards removed to Branch Village, was a respected citizen and elder of the Presbyterian church, died, 1812.

Peter and Abijah Barker, brothers, were from Atkinson; the latter came here, 1787, settled on a farm now owned in separate parts by his sons, Abijah and John; died, about 1847, aged 84. The former came three or four years later than his brother, began the farm inherited from him by his son, Capt. Moody Barker; died, 1829. Both were revolutionary soldiers, and useful citizens.

Jonathan Ladd was the first occupant, 1787, of the farm now Capt. James Wilson's, lived there five or six years, and emigrated to Tunbridge, Vt.

William Parker, from Dracut, began, in 1787, the farm east of Bartlett Wallace's, resided in this town more than thirty years, then removed to Anson, Maine. His aged father, William, came with him, and died here almost sixty years ago.

William Carr, from Goffstown, began, 1787, to subdue his farm, the one which has recently become Mr. White's, died, 1840, aged 81. His son, the late Wm. Carr, Esq., was often employed in town business, was representative and justice of the peace; died, 1850, aged 49.

John Brown, son of an emigrant from Ireland, removed his family from Francestown to this place, 1788, lived on the place at the corner of roads, a little north of Dea. Bell's; died, 1808, very aged. His

son, *Thomas*, lived on the place now his nephew's, the present Thomas Brown's; was a revolutionary soldier, and stationed for a time at West Point; used to relate that the soldiers were often driven by hunger to seize the sheep of the neighboring Dutch farmers; was at West Point at the time of the detection of Gen. Arnold's treachery, and had opportunity to witness the execution of Maj. Andre, but his feelings revolted from the sight; died, 1847, aged 86. *Francis*, another son of John, lived many years in Antrim, part of the time on the Blanchard farm, and removed, 1818, to New-York. Margaret, daughter of John, married Dea. John Bell, and is the mother of Rev. Hiram Bell, pastor of a church in Killingworth, Conn.

Jacob Puffer, from Weare, was the first settler on the Artemas Brown farm, 1788, was a blacksmith, and after a residence of near ten years, removed to the vicinity of Glenn's Falls, on Hudson river.

Samuel Christie came here from New-Boston, 1788, built a large two story house a fourth of a mile north of the first meeting-house, which he occupied as a tavern for many years; died, 1818, aged 54. One son, Josiah W. Christie, remains here. Another son, Daniel M., is a distinguished member of the bar at Dover. A daughter, Mary, married Rev. Levi Spaulding, missionary at Ceylon, and has resided in India, engaged in useful efforts for the spread of christian knowledge among a benighted people, more than thirty years. In this period, she has made one visit to America.

Nathan Hawes built a house, 1788, on the old Butman farm, and resided there about three years. He came from Goffstown, and removed to Hooksett.

Thomas Dunlap, a native of Windham, son of James, an emigrant from Ireland, became a resident of Antrim, 1788, and subdued the farm now his grandson's, the present Thomas Dunlap; died, 1815, very aged; esteemed as a religious, respectable man. He was a soldier in the second French war, and was one of the garrison of Fort William Henry, which, in 1756, was surrendered to the French, under a pledge of protection from the fury of the Indians. The French perfidiously violated the engagement, permitting the Indians, after the garrison had given up their arms and marched out of the Fort, to massacre many of them. Out of a New-Hampshire regiment of 200 men, 80 were thus slaughtered! A savage pursued Mr. Dunlap, caught him by the queue, and tore out a large portion of the hair of his head. He escaped from the Indian and fled back to the fort, where the French gave him protection. His son, *James*, married a McNiell, of Hillsboro', and died, 1846, aged 80. There is a tradition in the family of Mrs. Dunlap, first wife of James, that the first McNiell who came to America was a refugee from Ireland, under the following circumstances: he visited a friend, who gave him a stick to make into a scythe-snath. On his return home he met the lord of the manor, who charged him with stealing it from his forest, and on his denial, called him liar, and struck him with his whip; on which

McNiell struck him a powerful blow with the stick, and without waiting to see whether the wound proved mortal, fled to America.

Samuel Caldwell, a revolutionary soldier, came to this place from Weare, 1788, lived some years on the Edward L. Vose farm, afterwards on the place recently purchased by Mr. Starrett; died, 1834, aged 79. None of his descendants reside here. In common with the revolutionary soldiers, he idolized Washington, and used to call him "That beloved man."

Samuel Vose, afterwards *Dea. Vose*, was the fifth in descent from Robert, an emigrant from Lancashire, England, to Dorchester, Ms., 1638; came from Bedford to Antrim, 1788, began the farm now Capt. Rodney Sawyer's; worked on his land a few years prior to his marriage, during which time a bear once broke into his camp during his absence and made quite too free with his provisions; was a man of strict integrity and firm religious principle; died, 1830, aged 71. So exemplary was his observance of the sabbath, that if a man spoke to him that day on secular business, he has been known to show his disapprobation by turning away from him without giving any reply. One son, Edward L., resides here; another, Samuel, is a physician in Maine; still another, Deacon John Vose, resides in Peterboro'.

William Bodwell was from Haverhill, Ms., came here, 1789, settled on the place at present owned by Reuben Robinson, Sen., and after a residence of some years, went to Ohio, or some other portion of the West.

Charles Woods, from Methuen, became a resident of this town, 1789, brought under cultivation the farm recently bought by Mr. Wilson, died, 1848, aged 78. His constitution was remarkably susceptible of fever; a disease which, either of the bilious or typhoid type, he had in the course of his life from thirty to forty times. His two sons, Samuel and James, live in town.

Alexander Witherspoon, from Chester, came hither 1789, began the Samuel Tuttle farm, afterwards removed to the Artemas Brown place, died, 1848, aged 87. His son, Joseph S. Witherspoon, who changed his name to Atherton, a man of much promise, universally esteemed for his piety and integrity, died, 1845, in the meridian of life.

Hugh Orr, a brother of Hon. John Orr, of Bedford, removed from that town to this, 1790, and lived in a house a little south of Mr. Temple's, which was then thought to be in Antrim, but, on the final adjustment of the town line, fell just within the limits of Hancock. He was a man of information and integrity; to the regret of the citizens, he emigrated about 1795, first to Rockingham, Vt., and thence to Homer, N. Y. His numerous descendants are scattered through the Western States.

Joel Reed became an inhabitant of Antrim, 1790; built a house between Jeremiah Hill's and Daniel Holt's, lived there about twelve years, and removed to Washington, N. H.

John Woodcock came from Peterboro', 1790, lived on the Chandler Boutell farm, removed to Hillsboro' about 1804, where he resided many years, and changed his name to *Bertram*. Afterwards removed to Newport. Had a son who became a physician of much promise, and established himself in medical practice at Townsend, Ms. Dr. Bertram acquired a large practice, but died in early life, much regretted.

William Heuston, a mason by trade, was a native of Bedford, emigrated to Antrim about 1790, lived where Miles Tuttle now does, died, 1830.

Robert Vose, brother of Dea. Samuel Vose, came from Bedford or Goffstown, 1790, and struck the first blow on the land constituting the former Gates place. After a stay of some years, he removed to Vermont.

James Pierce was from Hudson, became a resident of this town 1791, built a house on the hill west of Capt. Worthley's, and after two or three years removed to Swanzey.

Samuel Edes, a native of Dedham, Ms., took up his abode here, 1791, lived a little east of Mr. Dinsmoor's, buried his wife in Antrim, and about 1801 removed to Peterboro', where he died at the great age of 93.

Daniel Buswell, from Bedford, Ms., settled in Antrim, 1791, is still living in comfortable health, in his 90th year, being the oldest man in town, having resided in it sixty-one years. He was a revolutionary soldier; in an action near Fort Washington, on the Hudson, he had discharged his musket once at the enemy and was reloading, when a bullet struck and bent his bayonet, and a fragment of the ball inflicted a painful wound in the eye.

John Worthley, grandson of Timothy, an emigrant from England, who lived in Weare to the great age of 100 years, came here from Goffstown, 1791, and made the first opening in the forest at the place he still owns, and where he has resided sixty-one years. One son, Dea. John Worthley, resides in town, whose son, Otis, died in California, 1851.

Samuel Hall was from Windham, emigrated to this town 1791, lived a few years on the Stephen Butterfield farm, then in a house once standing in a pasture west of Daniel McIlvain's, and last at the place now occupied by Isaac Barker. Removed to Washington many years ago, and died there. *William*, brother of Samuel, came here somewhat later, lived a few years on the Wm. Wilkins farm, and removed to Massachusetts.

Ebenezer Cummings, once a resident of Hudson, removed to this place, 1791, and began the cultivation of the John Hill farm; died, 1815, aged 47. His aged widow still survives; two daughters, the wives of Charles Gates and David Hill, Jun., reside in town. In

1801, Mr. Cummings lost a little son, in his sixth year, killed by the fall of a tree.

Abijah Hadley, a well known citizen of Hancock, lived in Antrim a short time from 1791 to about 1793 or '94, on the Butman farm, then removed to Hancock.

James and Ephraim Hall, brothers, lived on the farm now Rev. Mr. Davis'. James came first, began to subdue the place, soon sold to Ephraim, and removed to Hillsboro'. The commencement of his residence here must have been as early as 1791, if not sooner. Ephraim lived on the place a few years, sold it to Dea. Holt, and removed to New-York.

Nathan Cross, from Litchfield, began the Asa Robinson farm, 1792, and in four or five years removed to Amherst.

David Parker, grandson of Alexander, an emigrant from England to Dunstable, (now Nashua,) came from Litchfield, 1792, and began the farm still owned in his family, south of Alexander Jameson's; is yet living at the age of 85, and resides with his son, Alexander Parker.

Benjamin Ring, from Dunbarton, built a house, 1792, or near that date, east of John Symond's, lived there about ten years, then deserted his family, and went to parts unknown.

John Thompson came to this town, 1793, from Hamilton, Ms., lived at several different places, died 1842, aged 81. He performed two or three tours of military service in the war of the Revolution, and was a good deal at sea, in privateers. Once he was taken by the British and carried into Halifax; again he was captured and imprisoned in the island of Bermuda. Here he was charged with being a British deserter, deprived of his rations, and threatened with being shot. Being examined by a British officer, who was a tory refugee from the States, and had some knowledge of the town from which Thompson came, his claim of being an American was admitted as true, and he was exchanged or liberated. After the death of his first wife, he was for a period engaged in the regular naval service, about 1798. One of his sons, Thomas, resides here.

Henry Campbell became a citizen of Antrim, 1793, lived in a house then standing on the spot now occupied by Mr. Newman's, and opened a small store; having gone to Boston in the summer of 1801 to buy goods, he went into Charles river to bathe, in a hot day, and was unfortunately drowned.

Lemuel Paige, the fifth in descent from John Paige, an emigrant from Dedham, England, who was born 1586, and came to America, 1630, in the company which, under Gov. Winthrop, founded Boston; he settled at Dedham, Ms., died 1676. Lemuel removed his family from Weare to Antrim, 1793; lived on the farm now owned in part by Mr. Gates; died 1805. One son, Stevens Paige, and a daughter the wife of John Wallace, reside in town.

Mark Woodbury was from Beverly, Ms.; opened the first store at the Woodbury stand, 1794, a little before he became of age; was a large land-holder, and transacted for many years an extensive business both in trade and agriculture; was justice of the peace and representative; died 1828, aged 52, leaving to his heirs the largest property which had been accumulated in Antrim. He has been succeeded in trade by his sons, Mark B., Levi, and John B. Woodbury. His eldest son, Hon. Luke Woodbury, attorney at law, for many years judge of probate for the County of Hillsboro', and at the time of his decease the nominee of the democratic party for the office of Governor, with the fairest prospects of an election, died, 1851, aged 51. The widow of Mark, who was Alice, daughter of Dea. Joseph Boyd, survives, and two daughters reside in town.

Esq. Mark Woodbury's aged father, Peter, who had been a seafaring man, and his wife, a woman of shrewdness and energy, lived with him many years before their death; she died, 1812; he in 1817, aged 79; both sleep in the old burying ground. It is singular that two of their grand children, Judge Luke Woodbury of Antrim, and Judge Levi Woodbury of Portsmouth, who were divided in their deaths by an interval of only a few days, were at the time prominent candidates, the former for the office of Governor of New-Hampshire, the latter for the office of President of the United States.

Barachias and Elijah Holt, brothers, and natives of Andover, Ms., removed to this place from Wilton, 1794, and built each a small house east of Reuben Boutell's, near the river. Elijah soon sold his land and removed to Columbus, N. Y. Barachias bought the place now Rev. Mr. Davis', lived there many years, was an elder of the church, regarded by all as a pious, good man, died, 1846, aged 89. When a youth of fifteen, he witnessed the catastrophe at the raising of Wilton meeting-house, of the fall of about fifty men from the high beams to the ground, some being killed and many more badly injured. The scene left on his mind, as well it might, a deep impression. None of his descendants remain in town. He had another brother, *Enoch Holt*, who lived some years in town, at different places, and died about 1805.

Robert McAllister took up his abode in town as early as 1794, perhaps a little sooner, lived in a house once standing between Dea. Steel's and the brick school-house, and removed his family about 1804 or 1805 to Newbury, Vermont.

John Butman came here from Topsfield, Ms., 1794, lived on the farm still bearing his name, died 1824, aged 87; his widow lived to be 94. He was an estimable man. His son, Eben, removed from Antrim to Bradford about 1822, and still lives at an advanced age.

Nathan W. Cleaves established himself here as a physician, in 1794, or a little earlier, and built the house at present owned by Hopkins Griffin. An account of his professional career will be found on another page.

Enoch Sawyer brought his family from Goffstown to this place, 1794; had been a magistrate, and representative of that town in the Legislature; lived in a house once standing south of Amos Dodge's; was a man of strong mental powers; died, 1817, aged 76. Three sons settled in Antrim: *Samuel*, who began the Caleb Clark farm, resided there many years, removed to Bedford, and died in Frances-town, about 1847 or '48; *Enoch*, who began the Tenney farm, lived afterwards at different places, died 1840, aged 63; *Tristram*, well known as Dea. Sawyer, who lived in the house now Capt. Hutchinson's, once standing a few rods north of the old meeting-house, and removed it from that to its present location; was an elder in the Presbyterian church, and selectman; to the great regret of the citizens, whose confidence he fully possessed, he removed to Hillsboro', 1831, and still resides in that town.

Daniel Bickford, a hatter, from Pembroke, settled in town, 1795, on the old road south-west of Judge Whittemore's, removed to Hillsboro' about 1810.

Elijah Gould was from Amherst, purchased the farm once Maj. Riley's, about 1795, is still living on the place formerly the tavern stand on the turnpike.

Nathan Cole, from Boxford, Ms., came to Antrim, 1795, lived on the Jeremiah Hill farm, had a large family. His son, *Nathan*, lived near Lynn Parker's, and removed with his father-in-law, Capt. T. Nichols, to New-York. Another son, *John*, lived a short time on Meeting-house Hill, and removed together with his father, *Nathan*, about 1802, to the town of Hill.

Abraham Smith was a native of Hudson, bought the farm now owned in part by Mr. Preston, 1795, lived in a house then standing on the old road, died, 1816. None of his numerous family remain in town.

Asahel Cram came from Francestown, 1795; lived at first in a house once standing between Jeremiah Hill's and Daniel Holt's, which was built by Samuel McMaster; afterwards on the farm lately purchased by Clark Hopkins; died, 1835, aged 69.

— *Heath*, from Hampstead, lived a few years, from 1795 to about 1800, in a house then standing between Clinton Village and James Boyd's. Removed from town.

Jonas Hubbard began to reside in Antrim, 1795, in a dwelling which stood on the road from Reuben Robinson's, 2d, to the north end of Gregg's pond. Removed to Hollis, 1801.

Benjamin, Robert, and Nehemiah Knight, brothers, removed to Antrim from Middleton, Ms., 1795, and lived on the farm now Mr. Starrett's. Their sister, Phebe, was killed by the fall of a tree, 1799, as she was gathering oven wood near the spot where her brothers were felling trees. The next year, Robert was killed by the fall of a

tree, his axe being driven almost through his shoulder ; Benjamin was wounded by the same tree, but recovered. He removed not long after 1800, with his aged father, *Jonathan*, to the farm where John Robinson now lives, died, 1827, aged about 80. His widow lived to be considerably more than 90. Nehemiah, after living at various places in town, removed to New-York, and died there many years ago.

Josiah Duncan, afterwards well known as *Dea. Josiah*, was from Hancock, and planted himself in Antrim, 1795, on a farm recently purchased by N. W. C. Jameson, a little west of Mr. Newton's. He was an elder of the Presbyterian church, a pious and exemplary man, died, 1833, aged 62. Most of his descendants have emigrated to other places.

William Starrett, tanner, came here from Francestown somewhat prior to 1795, possibly two years earlier ; built the house recently occupied by Nathan White, removed to Maine about 1801.

Isaac Baldwin, from Amherst, became a resident of this place, 1795, lived on the farm inherited from him by his son, *Dea. Isaac Baldwin*, was an enterprising and useful citizen, frequently the moderator of town meetings, died 1811, aged 53. Four of his daughters married physicians ; one of his sons, *Doct. Dexter Baldwin*, is a physician in Marlboro', Ms. ; *Samuel* resides in Bennington ; *Cyrus*, a graduate of Dartmouth, has been for years an associate preceptor of the Academy at Plainfield, N. H.

Samuel and William McAdams, brothers, removed here from Hudson, 1795 ; were originally from Londonderry ; *Samuel* lived on the Daniel Holt farm ; *William* on the Patten hill, in a house which was demolished years ago ; both removed to Tunbridge, Vt., about 1808.

Taylor Joslin fixed his abode in town, 1794 or '95, on the farm now George F. Parmenter's ; removed, 1800, first to Holderness, afterwards to Northfield. Was in the Revolutionary service ; at one time was taken prisoner by the Indians, and compelled to run the gauntlet between two lines of savages, one of men, the other of women, each giving him a blow. He used to say that the blows given by the squaws were harder than those of the men.

Benj. Symonds, from Mont-Vernon, became an inhabitant of Antrim, as early as 1793, lived on the farm where the widow of his son, Benjamin, at present resides ; died 1827, aged 65. One son, John, and two daughters remain in town.

Robert Tennant removed to this town from Deering, 1795, lived many years where Cyrus J. Whitney now does ; died 1843, aged more than 80.

Hutchinson Flint, was from Mont-Vernon ; came to this place 1795 ; lived on the farm now the town's farm ; was bed-ridden many years ; died 1817.

Zadoc Reed, a revolutionary soldier who had served through the war, and was never wounded, came here in 1795, lived on the Clark farm and at other places in town, died 1827, aged 75. Came from Litchfield.

Boyd Hopkins, from Francestown, purchased the farm, 1796, at present occupied by his son, Robert; died 1833, aged 78. His aged widow survived, at the age of about 88; two daughters live in town, and eight daughters have deceased. Solomon, a son, resides in Alstead.

Jacob Tuttle, from Lyttleton, Ms., opened a store at the place now his son Madison's, 1796, and transacted there a large and profitable business, both in trade and agriculture; afterwards removed his residence and trade to Branch Village. In 1800, he lost all his children by the dysentery, but had a numerous family afterwards. He sustained many town offices; represented Antrim in the Legislature for many years; was Senator, Councillor, a Judge of the County Court of Sessions, an Elector of President of the U. S. Died 1848, aged 81. His widow, an intelligent woman, much respected, died 1852. Two sons and two daughters reside here; others have died or removed.

Benj. Sargeant, clothier, from Mont-Vernon, lived on the old Breed stand, in South Village, from 1796 to about 1800, and removed to Maine.

Andrew Robb, from Peterboro', became a resident of Antrim, 1796, lived on Robb mountain, to which he gave his name, was a large landholder, removed to New-York many years ago, and died there. One daughter, wife of John Robinson, remains here. A brother of Andrew, *Moor Robb*, also lived on the mountain, and emigrated to New-York.

John Case, a native of Middleton, Ms., emigrated from Mont-Vernon to this town, 1796, had been a revolutionary soldier, lived some years on the Stephen Butterfield farm, died, 1828, quite aged.

Samuel Potter, from Dunbarton or Goffstown, purchased the Stephen Butterfield farm, 1796, lost all his children, three in number, in the dysentery of 1800, removed to Henniker about 1803.

Alex. Thompson was an emigrant from Perth, Scotland, became a resident of Antrim, 1797, died 1827, leaving the homestead to his son, George Thompson.

James Taylor, from Dunstable, became an inhabitant as early as 1797, married a daughter of John Duncan, Esq., lived at different places in this town, removed in 1814 to Lyndeboro', thence to Cornish, and thence to Herkimer, N. Y., where he died about 1838.

William Wilkins removed to this town from Mont-Vernon, 1798, lived on the farm at the present date occupied by his widow, Betsy Wilkins, died 1837, aged 63. William had a brother, *James*, who came here two or three years later, lived on the farm now his son's,

Dea. Joel Wilkins, died 1804, in early life; also another brother, *Enoch*, who died suddenly, 1850.

Isaiah and Nathan Webster were from New-Salem, N. H., and brothers. The former came here about 1795, lived a few years on the Dea. Nichols farm, and removed from town. He was in the military service in the war of 1812, and died in this place, 1815, of lung fever, on his return from the army to his family in Salem. *Nathan* came hither, 1798, died 1845, aged 73, leaving his homestead to his son, Enos Webster.

John Allds, from Peterboro', became a resident here about 1798, lived on the Jesse Combs place, removed from town near thirty years ago, and is supposed to be yet living in north-western Pennsylvania.

Ebenezer Marsh lived in a house once standing on the mountain, west of Dea. Worthley's, came from Hudson, 1798, removed back to that place, 1807, and has since deceased.

Parker Morse lived on the Amos Dodge farm from about 1798 to 1816, when he removed, first to Vermont, afterwards to northern Illinois, where he is still living, aged about 80. He was known as *Capt. Morse*, and was a valuable citizen.

Zaccheus Fairbanks was from Framingham, Ms., removed to Antrim, 1798, lived on the Edward L. Vose farm, and at other places, died 1845, aged 86.

Jesse Wilson lived on the farm inherited from him by his son, *Capt. James Wilson*, from 1798 to 1812, when he died of spotted fever, in middle age. He was from Pelham.

Josiah Hayward removed his family hither from Westford, Ms., 1798, lived in town at various places more than thirty years, removed to Alexandria, and died a few years since.

Peter Robinson emigrated with his family from Hudson, 1799, lived where his son, Reuben, now does, died 1828, advanced in years. Two other sons, Asa and John, reside in town.

John M. Collins came from Braintree, Ms., 1799, purchased the mills in Branch Village, removed to Francestown, 1806, still lives there, quite aged.

John Taylor, known as *Dea. Taylor*, removed to this place from Beverly, Ms., in 1800, lived on the Raymond farm, was an elder of the Presbyterian church, removed to Union, N. Y., about 1824, and has deceased; his son, John, who for some years led the church music, also removed to the west, and died in Wisconsin.

George Gates removed his family hither from Framingham, 1800, lived in a house that once stood south of Daniel Holt's, died 1844, in his 93d year. He recollected that when a boy, about ten years old, he knew a man in Framingham, then over 100 years old, and

who lived to be 110 ; Mr. Gates was of course cotemporary with a man, who was cotemporary with many of the very earliest Pilgrim fathers of New-England. He was a revolutionary soldier, and retained to the last a vivid recollection of the incidents of the war. One son, Charles, and two daughters reside in town.

Amos Parmenter, who still lives at the age of 79, came from Framingham, 1800 ; is an elder of the Presbyterian church ; has sustained various town offices, been representative and justice of the peace. Three of his sons, Prescott, John S., and George F., reside in town ; others of his children have died or emigrated, some of them to Illinois.

James Ball came from Townsend, about 1800, lived many years on the western declivity of Robb mountain, removed some years since to Marlow, and still survives at a great age.

Charles and William T. Tuttle, father and son, removed their families hither from Hamilton, Ms., as early as 1800, if not a little sooner ; both lived, in separate houses, on the northern declivity of Tuttle mountain, imparting to it their own name. The father, Charles, died 1826, aged 78 ; his widow survived to the age of about 94. The son removed, many years ago, to the State of Ohio.

William Combs, from Peterboro', came to this place as early as 1800, lived some years on the Thomas Holmes farm, died 1840, aged 84.

The above list of names comprises almost all who became residents of Antrim, prior to the close of the last century. A few other names have been found, of whom very little information has been obtained : as Thomas Patch, — Hoyt, Jona. Flanders, David Hopkins, Henry White, Stephen Hall, William Davidson, Stephen Reynolds, William Johnson, Robert McAuley, and Adam Dickey. The first five lived, in succession, through the period from 1788 to about 1804, each for a short time, in the Dea. Sawyer house, when it was standing a little north of the old meeting-house. To many readers, the list will be uninteresting ; to others, whose memory extends back to *olden time*, it may be gratifying. Great pains have been taken to ensure correctness in the dates ; very many of them, being derived from records, are reliable ; as to others, dependent on the memory of aged persons, there may be some uncertainty ; an error, now and then, will doubtless be discovered ; but even those dates not perfectly correct, will be found, it is believed, near approximations to the truth.

Many of the persons named in the preceding list, of whom no character is given, were valuable citizens—men of moral excellence, and undoubted piety.

————— "Those suns are set!
O, rise, some other such.—"

.Within the present century, Antrim has received numerous accessions of enterprising and respectable immigrants ; but further to extend notices of individuals, many of whom are yet living, would be scarcely proper, and would tax too severely the patience of the reader.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION.

The town of Antrim lies in the north-western part of the county of Hillsboro', twenty-two miles north of the Massachusetts line, almost equidistant from the Connecticut and Merrimack rivers, and a few miles east of the height of land between them. Its boundaries are as follows: beginning at the south-east corner of the township, on Contoocook river, thence running due west one hundred and forty rods on the north line of Bennington, to the north-west corner of that town; thence, still due west, on the north line of Hancock, 1855 rods, to Nelson line; the whole south line extending six miles and almost a fourth, with the exception of a break in its continuity and a small indentation into the territory of the town, by the annexation, a few years ago, of the small homestead of John Flint to Hancock. From the south-west corner, the line runs north twelve degrees east, on the east line of Nelson, in the county of Cheshire, 302 rods, to the south-east corner of Stoddard, in the same county; thence north fifteen degrees east, on the east line of Stoddard, 1450 rods, to Windsor line, the whole extent of the west line being very nearly five and a half miles. From the north-west corner, on Stoddard line, the line of Antrim runs east three degrees north, on Windsor south line, two miles and 312 rods, to the south-west corner of Hillsboro'; thence east, five degrees north, on the south line of Hillsboro', three miles and two hundred and forty rods, to Contoocook river; the whole north line being in length six miles and 232 rods. The river forms the eastern boundary of the town, dividing it from Deering and Bennington; its general course from the south-east to the north-east corner varying not far from north fifteen or twenty degrees east. The outlines approach somewhat to the form of a diamond, the average breadth from south to north being about five and one third miles. The superficial contents are not less than 32 square miles, and 21,000 acres. In the records of the perambulations of the town lines at different periods are found some discrepancies, but the account here given is taken from the latest record, and probably the most correct.

The prevailing soil is loam, rocky, but deep, in many places warm and moist, and not deficient in fertility. Some tracts approach to the character of a sandy loam, and are of easy cultivation. Of arable land most of the farms have a sufficient proportion. There are some knolls of coarse gravel and pebbles, of little value; but the proportion of such land is small. Many of the streams are bordered, in

part, by natural meadows, fertile and beautiful; some of them are overflowed in times of freshets, when the subsidence of the waters leaves a deposit of considerable value.

SURFACE. It is a tract of hills and vallies. On Contoocook river the handsome intervals and gradual rise of the bordering hills, impart to the scenery a character approaching that of softness; as you go west, it becomes bolder and more rugged; and rises near the west line of the town into a mountainous range, extending from North Branch river southerly, four or five miles, to Hancock line. This range is divided by two depressions of moderate depth into three distinct parts; the northern portion is called Tuttle's mountain; the central, Robb's mountain; the third and south part, Bald mountain, from the circumstance that in early times a fire destroyed much of the timber, leaving the surface naked and bald. The two first divisions, Tuttle's and Robb's, were named from men once residing on their sides. Each of them has some minor depressions, breaking them into distinct summits, not distinguishable at a distance, but quite visible to the near observer.

Windsor mountain, north of North Branch river, is an elevated ridge, in some places precipitous, extending from east to west about three miles. Near its summit passes the line between Antrim and Windsor. On the southern front is a cave, not however of great extent, and not very well repaying the labor of visiting it.

Riley's mountain, in the north-east part of the town, deriving its name from the first settler of the place, rises to an elevation of perhaps 1500 feet, and has two distinct summits, separated by a moderate depression. It lies between the Contoocook and North Branch rivers, near the point of their junction. A small portion of it extends into Hillsboro'. On the northern side of it plumbago or black lead is found, but not in such position and quantity as to encourage mining operations.

Other elevations, not dignified in common parlance with the name of *mountains*, yet worthy of notice, are Goodhue hill, east of Bald mountain, some hundred feet high, a portion of which extends into Hancock; Patten hill, east of Gregg's pond, quite elevated; Holt's hill, south of Patten's, inferior to it in height and magnitude, but commanding an extensive prospect, and covered with a rich, deep soil; Hedgehog hill, east of Holt's, presenting a mural precipice worth visiting; Meeting-house hill, sometimes called Christie hill, extending from the Centre more than two miles, north-eastwardly. Nahor hill is chiefly in Hancock; the northern portion, however, extends into Antrim almost to the South Village. Of smaller hills there are many; a few of them presenting an outline gracefully arched, while a larger number appear somewhat angular and rougher. These mountains and hills are covered with ranges of pasturage of excellent quality, to the amount of many thousand acres, particularly the range on Robb's mountain. It is supposed that no fatter grass-fed cattle are driven to market from any part of New-Hampshire,

than from the pastures recently owned on this mountain by the late William Weston, to an extent of one thousand acres.

STREAMS. Much the largest is Contoocook river, one of the principal tributaries of the Merrimack. From its source in Rindge to its mouth in Concord is more than fifty miles, and its general course is a little east of north to Hillsboro', thence north-eastwardly to its entrance into the Merrimack. Its name is of Indian derivation; all other Indian names of objects in Antrim being irrecoverably lost. For six miles of its course, this fine stream forms the east boundary of the town, presenting in this distance no considerable rapid. Before the day of roads and bridges, its winter surface of ice gave to the early settlers almost their only channel of communication with other towns. It is bordered by many fertile intervals, is crossed within the limits of the town by three bridges, and contains the usual variety of river fish. Salmon formerly ascended to Antrim, and even higher.

North Branch river rises in Washington, and takes at first a south course through Long Pond, a singular sheet of water six miles long, and from two or three rods to half a mile in breadth, to Mill Village in Stoddard; thence through Island Pond almost to South Stoddard Village; thence north-eastwardly into Antrim to the Branch Village; passing thence near Hillsboro' Lower Village, it falls into the Contoocook near the north-east angle of Antrim. This stream is romantic, easily swollen by rains, and in some parts of its course, roaring and impetuous. Within the limits of the town it is crossed by seven bridges. On it are three saw-mills, one trip-hammer, a tannery, two manufactories of shoe pegs, and an establishment for preparing raw silk, of foreign growth, for domestic uses. A good deal of valuable water power on this stream remains unoccupied. Formerly there were on it three grain mills, not now in operation.

Great Brook has two sources in the mountain range in the west part of the town; these streams form a junction, and then run through meadows into Gregg's pond. The outlet, on the east shore, takes an eastern course, inclining to the south, three miles, into Contoocook river; the fall of the stream being in this distance about 460 feet! On it are three corn-mills, four saw-mills, one woolen factory, not now operative, a small cotton factory, two tanneries, two hoe factories, a manufactory of looking-glass frames, one of powder kegs and chairs, one of colored window shades, three manufactories of tables, bedsteads, and cabinet-work, one of them on a large scale, four trip-hammer establishments, and a manufactory of doors and window-blinds. Although thirteen or fourteen dams have been built across this short stream, yet on the upper part of it quite an amount of water power remains unoccupied. Perhaps no other stream in New Hampshire, of a length not exceeding three miles from the pond to the river, furnishes an equal number of sites favorable to the propulsion of machinery by water. Few towns in the State, not situated on a large stream, are in this respect better provided for than Antrim.

Cochran's brook, the outlet of Campbell's pond, takes a course of about three miles south by east, into Contoocook river, and affords water sufficient to turn a saw and grain mill, near its mouth. Meadow brook, so called in the old records, rises in a bog east of Caleb Clark's, takes a north-east course into Steele's pond, where it mingles with the waters of North Branch river. Salmon brook falls into the North Branch at the "Trout-hole," once a noted fishing-place. Numerous other brooks and rivulets intersect the town in all directions, furnishing to almost every farm an ample supply of water. Springs, both superficial and subja-cent, are in abundance; few wells requiring to be sunk more than 12 or 15 feet.

PONDS. Gregg's pond, formerly called Pleasant pond, is the largest, covering an area of at least 200 hundred acres. It derived its name from Samuel Gregg, who built, about 1793, a corn and saw-mill near its outlet, and lies a little more than a mile south-west from the centre. The bottom of a large portion of it is a plain, covered by a depth of water from 32 to 34 feet; the remaining parts are more shallow. It is fed in part by subja-cent springs; the north-west shore is formed by a tract of low meadow; other portions of the shore are broken and precipitous, especially on the east side, where Patten's hill rises abruptly from the margin of the water. Originally it abounded with perch and shiners, together with other varieties of pond fish, but contained no pickerel. About 1800, John Smith and others transported pickerel from Contoocook river to the pond, where they increased rapidly, soon exterminated the shiners, and have for many years yielded to the neighboring anglers large supplies. This pond is a favorite resort for parties of pleasure, and has been the scene of many a chowder dinner, and many a fourth-of-July pic-nic. For sixty years it has been crossed on the ice in winter by sleighs and heavy-laden sleds; some lives have been periled, but no person has been drowned in its waters. The pond serves as a great reservoir to many manufacturing establishments on its outlet.

Willard's pond derived its name from an old hunter, who, before the first settlement, fished in its waters and trapped on its shores. It lies in the southwest part of the town, near the Hancock line, on the eastern base of Bald mountain, and covers a surface estimated at 150 acres. Some portions of it are from 70 to 80 feet deep. When first discovered it abounded with large trouts, some of them weighing five pounds, and was full of shiners, but had no pickerel. Large trouts are still taken here, but not in such plenty as formerly. Fine white sand is found on the shore. The outlet, on which is an establishment, formerly occupied as a saw and shingle-mill, now converted into a manufactory of bobbins, wash-boards, and clothes-pins, passes south-eastwardly, through Hancock, into Contoocook river.

Rye pond, near the south-west corner of the town, lies partly in Antrim, partly in Stoddard, and the residue in Nelson; covers a surface estimated at 40 or 50 acres; and is encircled in part by a shaking bog, overlaying a deep substratum of mud. The central part has some

deep water, but much of the pond is shallow, covered with lily leaves and a coarse rush grass, shooting up its long spires above the surface. It derived its name from the waving of this grass in the breeze like that of a field of rye. The outlet passes north, unites with another and larger stream coming from Nelson hills, and falls into North Branch river, in Stoddard.

Steele's pond, half a mile south-east of the Branch Village, has a surface of perhaps 20 or 25 acres, and contains most of the usual varieties of pond fish. The North Branch river enters this pond, and flows out fifteen or twenty rods from the place of its influx.

Campbell's pond, lying at the south base of Riley's mountain, is about the size of Steele's pond, is replenished with fish, and has a dry, pleasant, grassy shore, not deformed with aquatic weeds. Its outlet, a lively brook, passes south into Contoocook river.

Little pond, half a mile south-west from the centre, has a surface of only some half dozen acres. It is bordered in part by a shaking bog; as you recede a little from the water, the bog becomes drier and firmer, and spreads into a meadow, overlaying a deep substratum of peat or swamp mud, an article of which there are tens of thousands of cords, and which is valued as an important ingredient in compost manure. This substance, with proper management and intermixture, is capable of enriching all the adjacent farms. The pond has no fish except the horn-pout, the eel, and a very few straggling trouts.

BOGS. In the north-west part of the town is a bog of perhaps 300 acres, called *Cedar Swamp*. Bog brook, rising near Windsor line, passes through it, southwardly, into North Branch river. The swamp was originally covered with a growth of large cedars, which were found dead by the first settlers. At a place where the high lands project toward the brook, the beavers at some remote period had built a dam, of which the traces are still visible, which created a flowage over the whole bog, killed the cedars, and changed the course of the outlet to a south-eastern direction. In process of time the dam was broken and the waters drained off. Among the dead cedars sprang up a growth of spruce, white maple, and young cedars, appearing to be from one to two centuries old. This was the condition of the bog when first discovered. From these dead cedars, which seem almost to bid defiance to the tooth of time, have been manufactured many thousand dollars worth of shingles, clapboards, firkins, and pails. The stock is almost exhausted.

A considerable tract of bog and meadow land lies east of Caleb Clark's. Another tract extends west and north-west of Gregg's pond; to the south-west of this tract lies the Robinson meadow, on a brook near the east base of Robb's mountain. The three last named bogs or meadows, are in the west part of the town, and each of them exhibits the ruins of a beaver dam. That beavers were numerous here in ancient times is unquestionable. The old hunters from the lower towns, who began to resort to this region about 1715, either exter-

minated them, or destroyed so many that the rest, taking the alarm, retired to localities distant and less accessible.

PLAIN. There is but one in town, and that of very limited extent, not much exceeding fifty acres. It lies half a mile south-west of Branch Village, and was originally covered with a thick growth of large white pines, of which scarce one remains. So little value was attached to these trees in the early days of the town, that whoever wanted pine timber, went to the plain and cut at his pleasure. About 70 years ago, the late Dea. Carr was offered fifty acres of this timbered plain land for a pair of small three-years old steers; thinking he could not well spare the steers, he refused the offer. The same land in the state in which it then was, would be worth at this day six or eight thousand dollars. The Deacon, a man of cheerful temperament, not greedy of gain, never expressed chagrin at his mistake, but used pleasantly to wind up the story with the remark "Ah, but I missed it!"

VIEWS. The best views of Antrim are taken from Cork mountain, in Deering and Bennington. Seen from this stand-point, the town appears like a spacious amphitheatre, surrounded by hills and mountains; dotted with buildings; variegated with cultivated fields, pastures, woodlands, and groves; exhibiting in the season of summer foliage a verdant landscape, which has often attracted the attention of strangers. Not less striking is the autumnal view, presenting to the eye the variegated hues of the decaying beauty of the year. The foliage of an American forest, as affected by autumnal frosts, creates a scene of great beauty. As the frost affects different trees, and different leaves of the same tree, in unequal degrees, there is an endless variety of hues, many of them intense and brilliant, from green, through yellow, orange, and crimson, to a dark brown. Where ever-greens are intermingled, their deep green hues form a fine ground-work of the picture. This autumnal scenery is said to be peculiarly brilliant in northern New-Hampshire; perhaps no portion of southern New-Hampshire affords a better specimen of it than Antrim.

ROADS AND BRIDGES. Some of the leading roads of the town have been described in another place. Of some of the minor roads it may not be amiss to give the dates of laying them out. The road from Miles Tuttle's to Robert Hopkins' was laid out, 1783; from the Stacey farm to Windsor, 1779; from Dea. Bell's, by Thomas Dunlap's, to Hillsboro', 1779; from the old Centre, by Oren and Reed Carr's, to Stoddard, 1780; from Jesse Goodell's, by John Blanchard's, to the old Centre, 1780; from Chandler Boutell's to Lemuel Curtice's, 1782; from the old Centre, by Clinton Village, to Hancock line, 1784; from Thomas Dunlap's, by John Barker's and Daniel McIlvaine's, to the old Centre, 1787; from South Village, by Giles Newton's, to Rodney Sawyer's, 1788; from the pound, by Daniel Holt's and Reuben Robinson's, to Capt. Worthley's, 1794; from Esq. Parmenter's to Thompson's mills, 1795; from the town-house to the pound, 1807. A portion of some of these old roads has been discontinued, and many later ones constructed. The annual

labors of three generations have rendered our roads comparatively smooth, and easily passed over in carriages.

Over the Contoocook and North Branch rivers, and Great Brook are sixteen bridges; none of them large.

VILLAGES AND EDIFICES. *South Village*, the largest in town, in the south-east part of it, stands on the summit of an easy slope, rising from the interval bordering the west bank of the Contoocook. It contains thirty-three dwelling-houses, most of them commodious; a few are elegant with ornamental appendages; two stores; mills; two neat school-houses; several factories and mechanic's shops. Two lines of daily stages come to the village, the one line passing to the Depot of the Contoocook Valley Railroad at Hillsborough Bridge; the other to the Depot of the East Wilton Railroad, at East Wilton Village. A large edifice, originally designed to be a manufactory of woollens, but since converted to other uses, contains a hall which the Baptist society in Bennington and Antrim have recently occupied as a place for public worship.

North Branch Village, on North Branch river, two miles north of the Centre, is pleasantly situated, has twenty-five dwelling-houses, one store, a commodious school-house, a tannery, a silk factory, mills, and several mechanics' shops. A line of stages from Hillsboro' Bridge Depot to Keene, make three trips a week, giving the village a daily mail. Several of the houses are neat and commodious, and the surrounding scenery agreeable.

The little collection of buildings at the Centre can hardly be called a village, as it includes only the Presbyterian church, town-house, school-house, and seven dwelling-houses. Half a mile south of the Centre, is *Clinton Village*, on Great Brook, embracing sixteen dwelling-houses, and several factories and mechanics' shops. The village is of recent date, is a lively and busy place, has a considerable amount of manufacturing business, and promises to grow into importance.

The Centre and East meeting-houses are substantial and costly edifices, ornamented with spires, and the former furnished with a good toned bell. Of the dwelling-houses, scarce half a dozen can be set down as *first class* houses; of the residue, a considerable number are of brick; of the wooden ones, many are well finished and painted. Most of the dwellings have an air of thrift and comfort. Very many of the barns and out-buildings are large and convenient.

PROGRESS OF CULTIVATION. Antrim contains a large number of *good* farms, and not a few *excellent* ones, mostly inclosed and divided by substantial stone walls. The average size of the farms, about 100 acres. Many of the swamps have been reclaimed, and converted into productive meadow. Very many of the fields, now smooth and arable, were once deformed and encumbered with stones, which patient labor has removed and deposited in walls; thus accomplishing the highest feat of manual labor, the conversion of a nuisance into a value.

VEGETABLE PRODUCTIONS. Forest trees of the deciduous kind, are the oak, both the red, and in small numbers the white; the ash,

three varieties, the white, black, and mountain ash; the maple, both the white and sugar maple; the beech, the white and the red; the birch, three varieties, white, black, and yellow; the elm; the butternut; the locust; the bass; moose-wood; lever-wood; horn-beam; the white poplar; the balm Gilead; the willow. The evergreens are the pine, and in one locality the Norway; the hemlock, two varieties; the spruce, three kinds, white, double and bald.

We have also the wild cherry, both the black and red; the sumach; and the fir balsam, which is in reality a variety of the spruce.

Of shrubs and medicinal plants there are nearly all the species common to southern New-Hampshire. Blackberries and raspberries grow in profusion; field strawberries are abundant; bilberries and low blue-berries are found, but not in great plenty; also the wild currant, and the wild gooseberry. The low or running blackberry is regarded as a nuisance in the mowing fields; and there is another variety of berries, perfectly resembling the blackberry in form, size and flavor; in every thing but *color*, it being of a very pale yellow. By an odd misnomer, some call it "*the white blackberry*!"

There is not known to be a walnut, chestnut or sycamore, growing in the town. A few mulberries have been brought here from other places, and flourish well. The woods, lowlands and fields, exhibit all the variety of flowering plants common to the climate.

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION. Not the slightest geological examination of the town has yet been made, and the writer regrets that he is too little informed on the subject to pretend to say much in relation to it. Coarse-grained granite, both in ledges and boulders, abounds; some of the latter are immensely large, weighing hundreds of tons; one, near Robb mountain, computed to exceed in weight a thousand tons, rests on a subjacent rock, on a base not exceeding in extent a common tea-table. Many of these large masses are fractured or split. No traces of lime-stone have been discovered. There are two beds of clay in the east part of the town, not far from Contoocook river; and a body of sand in the west part, on the farm of John Symonds, of which large quantities are transported to Stoddard, and used in the manufacture of black glass wares. The only mine known to exist is one of black lead on Riley's mountain; not now wrought, being thought to be nearly exhausted. On land of Harvey Holt is a bed of some mineral substance, exhibiting a few particles bearing a metallic lustre, whether of mica or some other component part is not known.

WILD ANIMALS. The moose, the largest species of the deer kind, was once common, and furnished to some of the earliest settlers, now and then, a winter's stock of meat. The last one seen here was killed about 1790. Wolves and bears, once numerous, are now exterminated. The former annoyed the early inhabitants by their nocturnal howlings, and by the destruction of their sheep; the last instance of their ravages having occurred about 1825. Sometimes they attacked cattle. A Mr. Curtice, who lived on Windsor mountain,

once turned out his cattle to browse in a swamp ; a pack of wolves beset them ; the cattle made a quick but well planned retreat, the cows taking the front, the small cattle the centre, while the oxen assumed the perilous task of guarding the rear, and beating back the wolves with their horns. The herd made good their retreat ; that the oxen killed or at least wounded some of the enemy, was inferred from the fact that their horns were bloody on their arrival at the barn. The bears sometimes killed swine, and made havoc in the corn-fields. With the exception of a single straggler, seen about 1845, not a deer has been seen here for many years. A large and ferocious lynx was killed on Bald mountain about thirty years ago ; and that one not the last visitant of his kind. Foxes, the most of them red, a few of the black and silver grey and wood grey varieties, are occasionally killed. Racoons are in considerable number ; of squirrels, the striped and red are numerous ; there are a few grey ones ; and somewhat rarely a flying squirrel. The skunk, gentle and inoffensive when not disturbed ; the woodchuck ; the hedgehog ; the mink ; and the musquash are found, but not in great numbers ; with now and then an otter.

Happily, the dreaded rattle-snake never found his way here ; black snakes are seen very rarely ; the only serpents noxious in any degree are the common speckled adder, and a species of water-snake, by no means numerous.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

POPULATION AND LONGEVITY. The number of inhabitants by the census of 1850 was 1143. Of dwelling-houses there are 236, and of families not less than 240.

From the commencement of 1809, through a period of forty-three years, there were 780 deaths; giving an annual average of 18 and a small fraction over; and showing one death in a year out of each number of 71 souls. Of the above 780 persons deceased, eleven were from 90 to 97 $\frac{1}{4}$ years; sixty-three were between 80 and 90 years of age; and seventy-nine were between 70 and 80. After the dysentery of 1800, and the spotted fever of 1812, an impression was extensively prevalent that Antrim was less salubrious than other adjacent towns. The preceding statistics demonstrate the incorrectness of this impression; most of the early settlers attained to a good old age; probably few towns in New-Hampshire can exhibit more numerous instances of longevity in proportion to the population. Antrim is remarkably free from stagnant water and dead swamps, sending forth pestiferous exhalations.

At the time of writing this article there are living in the Centre school district of Antrim twenty persons of various ages, from 70 to 91, whose average age would fall not far short of eighty years. Can any school district in the county exhibit a more favorable return?

The average population of the town during the above named period of forty-three years, would vary little from 1250. From the first settlement of the place to 1852 the whole number of deaths will somewhat exceed one thousand.

EMIGRATION FROM TOWN. It is believed by the writer that more than four hundred families, who have resided here for a longer or shorter period, have removed to other locations. Adding to the present population the numbers who have died or emigrated, and we have a probable total of between four and five thousand persons, who have at some period found in this place the attractions clustering round that little word, HOME. Especially since 1825 has the spirit of emigration been rife. In almost all of the thirty-one States, including even Texas and California; in Canada; in Mexico; in the island of Cuba; in India, Ceylon, and China, you may find either

survivors who went from Antrim, or the graves of those who cherished it as the spot of their nativity. Who ever forgets the natal soil, or ceases to recur with fond attachment to the scenes of early life?

PHYSICIANS. In the time of the revolutionary war, the nearest physician was Doct. Young, of Peterboro'. Doct. Little, one of his pupils, established himself in practice at Hillsboro', 1782, and frequently attended patients in this town. A Doctor Frye came to Antrim about 1788, but found the prospect of business not sufficiently inviting to induce him to stay more than a year or two. Next came a Doct. Wm. Ward, who was here in 1791, but left town, probably, the next year. Doct. Nathan W. Cleaves, from Mont-Vernon, who studied his profession with Doct. Jones, of Lyndeboro', commenced medical practice in Antrim about 1793, had a respectable share of professional business, and died 1807, much regretted. Soon after his death, Doct. Jeremiah Stickney, from Pelham, established himself at Branch Village, and had a good share of practice till 1849, when he relinquished his business to Doct. D. W. Hazleton, from Hebron, N. H. Contemporaneously with Doct. Stickney, Doct. Charles Adams established himself at the Centre, soon removed to South Village, and thence, 1816, to Oakham, Ms. He was succeeded in the practice at South Village by Doct. Israel Burnham, from Greenfield, who came here soon after Doct. Adams left town, and continued in practice till the failure of his health. He relinquished his business to Doct. G. H. Hubbard, in 1848, and died in 1849. Doct. Hubbard remained in the place less than two years, and removed to East Washington; Doct. Hazleton being now the only physician in town. Doct. Burnham was a useful and respected citizen; left to the Presbyterian church, of which he was a member, a legacy of \$100, and several hundred dollars to other religious charities.

ATTORNEYS. The only attorney who opened an office here prior to 1844, was the Hon. Luke Woodbury, a native of the town. He commenced the practice of law in Hancock, but soon removed his office to Antrim South Village, about 1826. He was representative, and often was elected moderator of town meetings; possessing, as he did, a happy talent at preserving order and expediting business. At the time of his death, 1851, he was, and had been for about thirteen years Judge of Probate for the county of Hillsboro', and was in nomination for the office of Governor, with a high probability of election, had his life been continued. John McNeil, Esq., from Hillsboro', has commenced the practice of law, this present year, 1852, in South Village.

COLLEGE GRADUATES AND PROFESSIONAL MEN. The following persons, natives of the town, have graduated from some one or other of the New-England colleges: John Nichols, missionary at Bombay, deceased; Daniel M. Christie, attorney at law, Dover; George W. Nesmith, attorney at law, Franklin; Luke Woodbury, attorney at

law and Judge of Probate; Thomas W. Duncan, minister of the gospel, Vermont; Sylvester Cochran, minister of the gospel in Michigan; Hiram Bell, pastor of a Congregational church, Killingworth, Connecticut; Seneca Cummings, missionary to China; Isaac Baldwin, Jun., student at law.

John McFarland was admitted to the bar, 1815, practiced law in Hillsboro' till his death, 1819. Doct. Bertram, of Townshend, Ms., deceased, had been brought up, if not born in town; Doctors James A. Gregg, now in California, Samuel Vose of Maine, and Dexter Baldwin of Marlboro', Ms., were natives of Antrim, and studied their profession, in part, in town.

POST OFFICES. The first in town was established, it is believed in 1812, at South Village, and James Campbell was the first postmaster. His successors were George Duncan, Luke Wodbury, George Duncan, Jun., James Breed, and James W. Bradford. This office was for many years supplied with a mail by a route from Concord, through Deering, South Antrim, Hancock and Nelson, to Keene. This old route has been discontinued, and other ones established. In 1827, another office was established at the Centre, and supplied from the same route, but was discontinued about 1833. The successive postmasters were Robert Reid, M. L. Chandler, and Charles Gates. A post-office was established at the Branch Village about 1835, soon after the completion of the Keene road, where Hiram Griffin, Wm. P. Little, and Hiram Griffin a second time, have successively been appointed postmasters. Until the commencement of the present century there was no post-office nearer than Amherst.

DEATHS BY CASUALTY. The first in town was that of Asa Merrill, killed by a fall in Aiken's mill; the second, that of James Dinsmoor, killed in 1786 by a fall from a staging of the first meeting-house. Since that period, five have been killed by the fall of trees or limbs; nine have been drowned; two have been found frozen to death, and two others have died in consequence of exposure to cold; one was accidentally shot, and mortally wounded; four have been found dead either in the road, field, or woods; one found dead in bed; eight have committed suicide within the limits of the town, of whom one belonged to Francestown, and one to Stoddard. One of the cases of suicide was by opium, taken with design to destroy life.

A few years ago, more than twenty persons in and near the South Village were poisoned by eating of a western cheese, which had been purchased in Boston and retailed in small quantities to different families. A few of the sufferers were affected so severely that life was endangered; but by timely medical aid all recovered. Whether the poisonous quality was derived from the feed of the cows, or from coloring matter used by the dairyman, or from some substance maliciously infused, remains unknown.

SCHOOLS; *their former state.* Until 1794, or about that period, there was but one school-house, and that a log one, in town; stand-

ing a little east of Mr. Raymond's. For eight or ten preceding years, however, schools had been occasionally taught in private houses at the Centre, the Branch, and in the High Range. *Master* Butler was frequently employed as a teacher; females sometimes taught in summer, in private dwellings; among them was a woman, her name not recollected, who resided in town some time, and was the widow of the captain of a vessel, who had been lost at sea. Not far from 1794, the eastern section of the town was divided into two districts; a school-house was built a little north of N. W. C. Jameson's, and another near the corner of roads, a short distance north of Dea. Bell's. About the same time was erected the first school-house in Branch Village; another was built in the High Range, 1795. Until this time, the children in the Branch and in the Range had generally attended the same school, kept in the two sections alternately. The first school-house at the Centre was built in 1801 or 1802, standing 40 or 50 rods north of the town-house. This house was burnt, 1811. Other school districts were afterwards organized as the increase of population required.

SCHOOLS; their present condition. In the thirteen school districts of the town, about 400 children and youth annually attend, for a longer or shorter period. More than half the districts have schools both in summer and winter. Several of the school-houses are well arranged, neat, and commodious; the rest, with one exception, are decent and comfortable. In point of literary attainment, the schools have been for years gradually progressive, and frequently exhibit, on examination, favorable specimens of improvement. The chief defects are, in some instances, laxity of discipline; too much inattention to the manners and habits of the pupils; and a deficiency of moral and religious instruction. How to educate, in one and the same school, the children both of Protestants and Catholics; of those who reverence and those who discard the Bible; of parents connected with different denominations, holding views not harmonious;—without exciting on the one hand jealousies of sectarian influence, or on the other turning religion out of doors;—is a problem of no easy solution. If our system of popular education should ever become a *Godless* system, what must be its influence on the state of society?

EARLY DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES. In all the latter part of last century, most of the clothing of each family was manufactured by its female members. The material was by them carded, spun, woven, colored, and in many instances made up into garments. There was also a manufacture by females, to some extent, of fine linen cloth and thread, much of which was bought by traveling pedlars, and sold at a distance. The amount cannot be stated, but it was not inconsiderable. To furnish the material, many of the farmers grew flax. Since the commencement of the present century, this branch of female industry has been declining, and for many years has been known only as "among the things that were." Other forms and departments of industry have taken its place.

EARLY NAMES IN ANTRIM, NOW EXTINCT. Previously to 1780, the inhabitants with only two or three exceptions, were of Scottish descent. After that year, settlers of English derivation came in numerously. Many of the early Scottish names, as Aiken, McFarland, Alexander, Templeton, Dickey, McClary, Moor, Gordon, Warren, Lynch, Milimore, Gilmore, McDole, are not found in town. Nichols is both English and Scottish; we have now *English* families of the name; but of the *Scottish* families bearing the name, once numerous here, there are no remains. The Scottish names remaining are those of Boyd, Nesmith, Hopkins, Cochran, Thompson, Christie, Bell, Duncan, Steele, McCoy, Jameson, Campbell, McIlvaine, Dunlap, Gregg, Wallace, Carr, McClure, Allds, Dinsmoor; perhaps a few others.

COMPARATIVE POPULATION AT DIFFERENT PERIODS —

1744.	One small family.
1767.	Two families and about ten or twelve inhabitants.
1775.	Sixty persons, by estimate.
1777.	Twenty families and probably 100 inhabitants.
1785.	Forty three families, and about 250 inhabitants.
1790.	528 inhabitants.
1800.	1059 “
1810.	1277 “
1820.	1330 “
1830.	1309 “
1840.	1225 “
1850.	1143 “

From the above table it will be seen that from the first settlement of the south part of the town, there was a constant and comparatively rapid increase of population till 1800; and a moderate increase from 1800 to 1820. From 1820 to 1830 the population remained almost stationary, exhibiting however a very small diminution. Since 1830, our step has been more decidedly retrograde, and we now number almost 200 less than thirty years ago. The diminution is attributable to two causes;—the conversion of several tracts, once inhabited and cultivated as farms, into pasturage; and the emigration of large numbers of the young to cities and manufacturing villages, in quest of more profitable employment than they could find at home. It is believed that our population reached its maximum about 1825.

PRODUCTS OF AGRICULTURE. A sufficient supply of corn and rye is raised to meet the consumption of the inhabitants; in favorable seasons there is a moderate surplus of the former article sold out of town. Many thousand bushels of oats are annually carried to other places. Very little barley is grown; beans are raised in considerable quantities, and the surplus, after supplying the home demand, is sent to market; peas are not an object of much attention, beyond the production of early ones to be used when green. Wheat was formerly grown more than at present; but the great uncertainty of the crop has induced most of the farmers to abandon the culture of it.

Yet the consumption of wheaten bread has greatly increased, and not much less than 1000 barrels of western flour find a sale here. Of root crops the potatoe is far the most important; in former years this article was raised in great profusion and of excellent quality, but the ravages of the rot have diminished the cultivation. The carrot begins to be more appreciated, and a few farmers raise a considerable quantity as a feed for cattle, horses, and swine. We have few ornamental, but many productive kitchen gardens, in which the common culinary vegetables are raised in great plenty.

FRUIT CULTURE. Most of the early inhabitants planted large orchards, and manufactured and drank large quantities of cider. After the general disuse of cider as a beverage, some of the orchards were unwisely cut down. Soon, however, the value of the fruit as a feed for stock, and of the finer varieties as an article of luxury, began to be better appreciated. Many of the old orchards have been renovated by grafting; young trees are preserved and either grafted or budded; many trees of the fine varieties have been introduced from distant nurseries, and Antrim now produces fine fruit sufficient to supply the home demand, and to furnish a considerable quantity for exportation. The plum, the cherry, the currant are abundant; of peach and pear trees we have but few.

STOCK. Few blooded animals are found here; yet there are many good specimens both of horses and neat cattle. Fat cattle to the amount of some thousands of dollars are annually purchased in town for market. More horses are reared than are required for home use. In the line of sheep husbandry, there has been a decline; fourteen or fifteen years ago there were many flocks of mixed blood, numbering from 50 to 300 or 400; the number has since diminished more than one half. Pork was formerly raised in large quantities for market, but since the decline of prices, and the prevalence of the potatoe disease, the quantity does not greatly exceed the home demand. Poultry-raising is on the increase, and large quantities of the common kinds, and also of eggs find a sale in the large manufacturing towns of the State.

PRODUCTS OF THE DAIRY. Cheese-making is not attended to on an extensive scale. It is doubted whether the quantity produced exceeds the home consumption. Of butter, much of it is of excellent quality, and hundreds of firkins find a quick demand abroad.

RETAILERS OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC GOODS. The first store was opened by Ebenezer Kimball, about 1789, near the house of the late George Duncan, Esq. He traded there about five years, and was succeeded in business, first by Andrew Seaton, next by Moses McFarland, who after two or three years failed and went to the west. Others, who have successively done business at that stand in former years, are William Whitemore, Miller and Caldwell, and James Campbell. Mark Woodbury opened a store in South Village, 1794; his successors in business at that stand have been Thomas McMaster,

M. B. Woodbury, M. B. Woodbury and Co., and L. and J. B. Woodbury.

From about 1790 James Wallace kept a small store a few years on the Stacy place. Jacob Tuttle commenced trade 1796; after many years removed his business to Branch Village; his successors in trade at that stand have been Hiram Griffin, Griffin and Bell, Fairfield and Shed, and Almus Fairfield. Henry Campbell sold goods at the Newman place, from 1793 to 1801. Robert Butler built a small store, not now standing, near the town-house and sold a few goods, but failed in business about 1800. John Hopkins opened a small store, about 1822, on the place now occupied by James Eaton, and transacted business for two or three years. R. and H. Reed commenced trade at Antrim Centre 1827, continued business there seven years. Others, who have succeeded at that stand, not now occupied as a store, are Martin L. Chandler, Chandler and Vose, Charles Gates, and John M. Whiton, Jun. Charles McKean commenced trade in South Village, 1845, and has continued business to the present time, either in company with James W. Bradford or alone.

Since the writing of the above article it has been ascertained that a man of the name of Wallace built a small store opposite the seat of N. W. C. Jameson, about 1795, but in two or three years relinquished business at that stand, and returned to his native place, Milford. Thomas Jameson began the business of a retailer in a store on the old turnpike, more than thirty years ago, but continued in that place for only a brief period.

ARTICLES NOW MANUFACTURED IN ANTRIM —

Of metals. Hoes, hay-cutters, edge tools of some kinds in small quantities.

Of wood. All the common kinds of lumber, doors, window-sash, window-blinds, looking-glass frames, sleighs and wagons, chairs, bedsteads, tables, bureaus, and other kinds of cabinet wares, window-shades, powder-kegs, pails, tubs, firkins, shoe-pegs in quantity, bobbins, wash-boards, clothes-pins, and brush-woods.

Of cotton. Yarn, twine, batting.

Of silk. Raw imported silk is subjected to a variety of preparatory processes and then put up in packages for sale.

ANNEXATION OF A SMALL PORTION OF ANTRIM TO HANCOCK. On the petition of John Flint, whose small homestead adjoined Hancock line, and who had no access to Antrim save by a circuitous route through Hancock, his place was annexed, by act of the Legislature, to the latter town, 1847. This of course breaks the continuity of the south line of Antrim and makes a small indentation into the territory of the town.

HIGH RANGE. A range of lots on the northern declivity of the Tuttle mountains, the old Stoddard road intersecting them, acquired in early times, from its elevated position, and still retains the name of *High Range*.

TOWN OFFICERS.

The year on the left hand of the name denotes the time of election ; the figures on the right hand the period of continuance in office by elections in immediate succession.

SELECTMEN.

1777 Thomas Stuart	2	1811 James Nesmith	1
— James Aiken	1	— Stephen Woodbury	2
— Richard McAlister	1	— Charles Adams	2
1778 Daniel Miltimore	1	1812 Robert Gregg	1
— Daniel Nichols	1	1813 James Wallace	1
1779 John Duncan	1	— Jacob Whittemore	3
— Samuel Moore	1	— Thomas McCoy	4
— Adam Nichols	1	1814 Robert Gregg	3
1780 Daniel Nichols	1	1816 David McAulay	2
— Benj. Gregg	1	1817 George Duncan	1
— Thomas Stuart	1	— Amos Parmenter	4
1781 Samuel Moore	2	1818 Robert Gregg	1
— Daniel McFarland	1	— Jacob Tuttle	1
— John Duncan	2	1819 John Wallace	3
1782 Thomas Stuart	2	— John McNeil	1
1783 Samuel Dinsmoor	1	1820 Robert Gregg	2
— Adam Nichols	1	1821 Tristram Sawyer	1
1784 Samuel Moore	1	1822 Jona. Nesmith	1
— Samuel Patten	1	— Samuel Fletcher	12
— Richard McAlister	1	— John Worthley	5
1785 Isaac Cochran	3	1823 Samuel Tuttle	5
— Jona. Nesmith	3	1827 Jacob Tuttle	1
— Daniel Nichols	2	1828 Thomas McCoy	3
1787 Thomas Stuart	4	— Isaac Baldwin	3
1788 Samuel Dinsmoor	2	1831 Thomas McMaster	5
— David McClure	1	— Jacob Tuttle	1
1789 James Hopkins	1	1832 George Duncan	1
1790 Daniel Miltimore	1	1834 Jacob Whittemore	2
— Jona. Nesmith	8	1834 Thomas McCoy	5
1791 William Brown	1	— Jonathan Carr	4
— Daniel Nichols	2	1836 Thomas Dunlap	3
1792 Arthur Nesmith	9	1839 Samuel Fletcher	1
1793 John McIlvaine	1	— William Carr	3
1794 Daniel Nichols	2	1840 Henry C. Smith	1
1796 Thomas Stuart	1	— John Barker	2
1797 James Hopkins	1	1841 John G. Flint	2
1798 Daniel Nichols	2	1842 Samuel Fletcher	2
— James Wallace	2	— David McKean	2
1800 William Starret	1	1843 William Carr	2
— Jacob Tuttle	1	1844 Jonathan Carr	1
1801 Nathan W. Cleaves	1	— Manly McClure	1
— Samuel Vose	1	1845 Thomas McCoy	4
— Robert Gregg	6	— Josiah W. Christie	1
1802 John Alexander	2	— David McKean	1
— James Dunlap	2	1846 Thomas Dunlap	4
1804 James Nesmith	4	— Manly McClure	1
— Thomas Jameson	2	1847 Reed P. Whittemore	5
1805 John Worthley	1	1849 Rodney Sawyer	2
1807 Jona. Nesmith	1	1850 Ira Cochran	2
— James Wallace	3	1851 Samuel Dinsmoor	1
1808 Robert Gregg	1	— Thomas Dunlap	
— Samuel Vose	3	— Clark Hopkins	
1809 Thomas McCoy	2	— John Dodge	
1810 Robert Gregg	1		

The persons who have held the office of Selectman for the longest periods of time, are Thomas Stuart, 10 years; Arthur Nesmith, 9 years; Jona. Nesmith, 13 years; Robert Gregg, 15 years; Samuel Fletcher, 15 years; Thomas McCoy, 18 years. Thomas Dunlap is now in office in his eighth year of service as Selectman.

TOWN CLERKS.

1777 Maurice Lynch	1	1822 Amos Parmenter	4
1778 John Duncan	1	1826 Samuel Fletcher	1
1779 Samuel Moore	1	1827 Jacob Tuttle	3
1780 Daniel Miltimore	2	1830 Samuel Fletcher	1
1782 Samuel Moors	3	1831 George Duncan	8
1785 Daniel Miltimore	3	1839 Hiram Griffin	5
1788 Tobias Butler	1	1844 Joseph Davis	1
1789 Daniel Miltimore	2	1845 Hiram Griffin	2
1791 James Nesmith	27	1847 Charles McKean	5
1818 Amos Parmenter	3	1852 Almus Fairfield	
1821 Robert Gregg	1		

REPRESENTATIVES.

For a considerable number of the years between the incorporation of the town and 1797, the district, of which Antrim constituted a part, was represented in the Legislature by John Duncan, Esq.

1797 Jona. Nesmith	4	1833 Luke Woodbury	1
1801 Jacob Tuttle	10	1834 Samuel Fletcher	1
1811 James Wallace	1	1835 Luke Woodbury	1
1812 Mark Woodbury	1	1836 Thomas McMaster, jun.	2
1813 Jacob Tuttle	5	1838 Jacob Whittemore	3
1818 Jacob Whittemore	2	1841 Joseph Davis	2
1820 Jacob Tuttle	1	1843 Samuel Fletcher	1
1821 Mark Woodbury	1	1844 Joseph Davis	1
1822 Amos Parmenter	4	1845 Hiram Griffin	2
1826 George Duncan	1	1847 William Carr	2
1827 Samuel Fletcher	4	1849 Thomas Dunlap	2
1831 Thomas McMaster, jr.	2	1851 Charles McKean	

MODERATORS OF THE ANNUAL MARCH MEETINGS.

From 1777 to 1821, inclusive, the Moderators of the annual March meetings were John Duncan, Maurice Lynch, Thomas Stuart, Daniel Nichols, Isaac Cochran, Jona. Nesmith, Samuel Dinsmoor, Daniel Miltimore, James Nesmith, Isaac Baldwin, Jacob Tuttle, and Mark Woodbury; the latter for several years. Since 1821 they have been as follows: James Nesmith, 1822; Jacob Tuttle, 1823 and 1825; William Gregg, 1824 and 1826; Amos Parmenter, 1827; Geo. Duncan, 1828 and 1830; Sutheric Weston, jun., 1829; Jacob Whittemore, 1831, 1839, 1844, 1846, 1847, 1850; Luke Woodbury, from 1832 seven years in immediate succession, and also in 1840, 1841, 1842, 1845, 1848, 1849; William Carr, 1843; Bartlett Wallace, 1851, 1852.

In addition to various town offices, Jacob Whittemore has sustained the office of Sheriff of the county of Hillsboro', and afterwards that of Justice of the Court of Common Pleas for the same county, which last he resigned, 1852.



